**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**June 11, 2013**

*In the humble signs of bread and wine, Jesus shares our food for the journey.*

Please have bread and drink for the communion rite.

**HELLOs** and then mute everyone. **(Betty Thompson and Suzie De Quattro)**

**WELCOME (Cecilia Estrada)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Mary and I prepared our prayer for today.
* Introductions – Is there anyone who hasn’t been here before?
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today:

Kathleen Heller, Sister Jacqueline Quinn, Ann Jelen, Debra Street, Nancy Sushinsky, Cheryl Dowden, and Judy Sholes.

* We are always looking for new readers and grateful for all readers. If you are available on June 18 contact Lynn Bufka and the Cavanaughs for June 25. You can leave a message in Chat or email the planners.

**SETTLING IN (Cecilia Estrada)**

As we begin to settle into this time together let’s spend a minute quietly looking at each other, appreciating the presence of each unique person here today.  *(Take time to do that.)*

Let your body relax as your eyes move around the screen.  Let your breath slow and deepen as we offer thanks to the Holy One for this time and for each person here.  Let us celebrate the amazing fact that God is in love with us.

Now let us enter into our prayer together by singing “Bread of Life.”

**OPENING SONG** **- “Bread of Life,” lyrics by Rory Cooney (Betty shares screen)**

<https://youtu.be/QZgYcIvqgHU> Begin at :14. Play at 1.5 speed.

**GREETING (Debra Street)**

Ordinary time is a season for us to recognize the ordinary, extraordinary sacraments around us and in us. Ordinary time is when we take the gifts of Pentecost and turn them into active graces in ordinary situations. We pray that we ourselves will be ordinary sacraments and today we focus on being Eucharist. May we be everyday signs of God’s presence and sources of grace. May we encourage, inspire, and challenge each other to imagine what none of us could conceive alone. May it be so.

*[Pause]*

Cheryl Dowden will introduce us to today’s theme.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Cheryl Dowden)**

Today the church celebrates the Feast of Corpus Christi. Established in the thirteenth century, this feast focuses on the gift of the Eucharist. We’ll take some time to think about what Eucharist means to us and how we “celebrate” this feast. This week, on June 13th, the church remembers Saint Anthony of Padua, a popular Franciscan saint, who is often associated with finding lost things. As a Doctor of the Church his teachings and his preaching were influential in converting people to faith. We’ll take some time to think about how we are examples of faith to those around us.

*[Pause]*

Now Ann Jelen will read from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17. Judy Sholes will then offer questions that will lead us into silence.

**READING 1**  **(Ann Jelen)**

Friends: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a **participation** in the blood of Christ?

The bread we break, is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ?

Because the loaf of bread is one, we who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the One.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 1 (Judy Sholes)**

Paul says we are part of the “One Loaf” of Eucharist for the world. What moves or inspires you to this participation?

How does participation in the One sustain you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *[****Cecilia:*** *Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.****]***

**Cecilia**: Now Mary Dolmage will read an abridged homily from Sacred Space for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

**READING 2 (Mary Dolmage)**

The word “Eucharist” is derived from a Greek word for “thanks.” Above all, we remember with deep gratitude all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ, through his life, suffering, death, and resurrection. We also remember and give thanks for all our own experiences of God’s love at work in our lives. It is a time to count our blessings. And we remember and give thanks not only for what happened a long time ago, but most especially for what is happening in our lives at this time.

We come together to celebrate our being a community that participates together in Christ. For, although the Eucharist is at the centre of our Christian life, it is not the totality of that life. It cannot survive in a vacuum. The Eucharist is a sacrament or sign of something which is bigger than itself - a living Christian community. The Eucharist is, by and large, the measure of a Christian community. From the way a community celebrates its Eucharist one can know immediately whether this is a living or a dying community.

Today is the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Whose Body? And whose Blood? The Body and Blood of Christ? Is it the body that died on the cross? The body that walked and talked and taught in Galilee? Not really. The Body we celebrate today is the Body of the Risen Jesus, and all of us who are baptized members are constituent parts of that Body.

So, our celebration of the Eucharist, of the Body and Blood of Christ, is not simply a commemoration of what happened to the “historical” Jesus more than 2,000 years ago. It is – in the spirit of remembrance and thanksgiving – a celebration of what makes us who we are today. The Eucharist is not just bread and wine but a celebration of a living body, of which we are part. It is up to us, with the help of Jesus, to celebrate as a people, who become daily more and more aware that we are constituent parts of the Body of Christ. If people are to know Christ, it can only be through us, that they will come to know God. The more we grow in this awareness of Christ’s living and acting through each one of us, the more meaningful will be our gathering, to eat and drink together, the Body and Blood of the Risen One – which we are.

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 2 (Judy Sholes)**

How do you relate to being a constituent part of the living Body of Christ?

How has your experience of Real Presence or Eucharist expanded or changed?

How are you offering yourself as Eucharist to the world?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE *[Cecilia:*** *Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.****]***

Cecilia: We will now pause to listen to a musical reflection by Pat Barrett.

**REFLECTION 3 (Betty Thompson)**

# Pat Barrett – Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

<https://youtu.be/dk7llf2LkKc>

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS 3 (Judy Sholes)**

In acting justly, loving with mercy, and walking humbly, how have the seeds of faith grown for yourself and others around you?

Most of us here are “seasoned.” How do you celebrate what your hands have sown?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** ***[Cecilia:*** *Share slide, time 2:00, chime, stop slide.****]***

**Cecilia**: Nancy Sushinsky will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Nancy Sushinsky)**

We invite you to share the essence that emerged in **your** heart this morning as you have reflected upon our reading and music. We welcome everyone who wants to speak. Each of you holds a spark that brightens what we see together. We welcome **everyone** who wants to speak. We also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening.

So, let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long-ish pause]*

Now who would like to start our sharing?

*[People share brief personal reflections.]*

*[If there is extended silence during the sharing:]* Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Silence is space for reflection.]*

*[Stop by 20 minutes after the hour.]*

Thank you to each of you who has spoken and who has listened. We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Let us hold onto what the Holy One is saying in our reflections as we turn to God in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Sister Jacqueline Quinn)**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. (Pause)

Our response will be - Presence of Christ, sustain us.

May each of us participate fully in the eucharist of our communities. For this we pray - Presence of Christ, sustain us.

God among us, be comfort, strength, and inspiration for women religious in these times of profound changes. For this we pray. Presence of Christ, sustain us.

God beside us, help us do the next right thing about violence and injustice, especially for those who suffer in Ukraine. For this we pray - Presence of Christ, sustain us.

On St. Anthony's feast day, let us pray for those who are seeking what they fear they have lost, especially assurance of your love and grace. For this we pray - Presence of Christ, sustain us.

As we celebrate Pride Month, may those from the LGBTQ+ community be given equal rights and respect. For this we pray - Presence of Christ, sustain us.

For what else shall we pray? Please end your prayer with “For this we pray. Presence of Christ, sustain us.”

*[People share their personal prayers.]*

O You who love us more than we can imagine, we are grateful for this chance to give you our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We entrust the outcome to you. May it be so.

**OFFERTORY (Ann Jelen)**

Holy One, we offer you our ordinary selves, our talents, our resources. Take what we are and transform us into living Eucharist that brings your grace into the world. We commit ourselves to be alert for the moments where we can be channels for your presence. We think ahead toward the coming week to notice specific opportunities that may arise. [Pause to think.]

We commit to let your Spirit act in us. May it be so.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Cheryl Dowden)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the wine,

gifts of Earth and the work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it.  *[Pause.]*

Let us know God within ourselves so that we become God’s living presence in our world. *[Pause.]*

Holy One, we entrust ourselves to you and to one another.

Make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Holding the bread and drink let us pray together, as we extend our hands outward and bless these gifts of bread and drink in thanksgiving for life.

*[Pause.]*

Open our eyes to the hunger of others.

Thank you for giving us food for the journey.

We are one bread. We are one body.

Let us now eat and drink, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by God’s love.

(Pause to allow people to eat and drink.)

Blessed Be! So be it!

To extend our communion, ­­­­­­­Kathleen Heller will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Kathleen Heller)**

***All (muted):***

Now let us join our hearts in the words of the Polynesian and Maori people and the New Zealand Anglican community:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Blessed Be!

**FINAL BLESSING (Debra Street)**

**Let us now extend our hands in blessing to one another. (pause)**

**May the coming week help you to explore the beauty in your life. (pause)**

May you keep your determination and spirit unshaken. **(pause)**

May you embrace the week in eucharist with those you love and who love you. **(pause)**

May this new week be memorable for us all. **(pause)**

May it be so!

Now let’s join in our closing song.

**CLOSING – One Bread, One Body (Betty Thompson)**

<https://youtu.be/y5zhL-Grxyk>

Begin at 1:38 End at 4:22

Play at 1.5 speed

**RESOURCES** –

Solemnity of Corpus Christi [www.livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://www.livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

The Inclusive Bible