

ADVENT  
CONTEMPLATIVE  
SERVICE



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

# GATHER

## GATHERING MUSIC

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **You come to your people and set them free.**

## OPENING PRAYER

*The Presider says*

**T**hanks be to you, O God, for the night and its light, for stars that emerge out of evening skies and the white moon's radiance. Thanks be to you for the earth's unfolding of color and the bright sheen of creatures from ocean depths. In the darkness of the world and in the night of our own souls, let us look with longing for light and for hope. **Amen.**

## LISTEN

We now open our ears, hearts, and lives to receive God's Word.

*In the style of lectio divina, a single reading is offered three times followed by a chant and a time for quiet.*

*After the first reading, consider this question.*

- I. What words or images or phrases catch my imagination or attention?

*After the second reading, consider this question.*

- II. Where does this reading most apply to my life right now?

*After the third reading, consider this question.*

- III. What else is the Spirit saying to you?

## TAIZÉ CHANT

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre -

pare the way of the Lord, and all peo - ple will

see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

(Fine)

## **AFFIRMATION**

*from Daily Prayer for All Seasons, published by Church Publishing*

*Said together*

**We believe in God, Creator of all:**

**The two-legged, the four-legged,  
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon  
the earth  
and swim in the waters.**

**We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:**

**Our Brother Jesus born in humility,  
who lived and died for us and  
who will come again to bring us to glory.**

**We believe in God, Spirit with Us:**

**Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us  
and showing us the principles to live by.**

**We hear God's voice through the prophets.**

**Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with  
Us, Holy One:**

**We are named in the waters of baptism as  
your own, all of us related, all of us your  
children.**

**We watch for signs of your homecoming  
and thank you for this sacred circle of life.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*from New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*

*Presider* As we celebrate the journeys of life, illumined by the light of Christ, let us pray for the needs of this community, the church, and for the world.

*Leader* For the hungry and the overfed.

*People* **May we have enough.**

*Leader* For those overcome with sadness.

*People* **May we find times to laugh.**

*Leader* For the victims and the oppressors.

*People* **May we share power wisely.**

*Leader* For the peacemakers, and for those who make war.

*People* **May clear truth and love lead us to harmony.**

*Leader* For the silenced and the outspoken.

*People* **May we speak your words in truth.**

*Leader* For the unemployed and the overworked.

*People* **May our imprint on the earth be kindly and creative.**

*Leader* For the troubled and the meek.

*People* **May we live together as healers.**

*Leader* For the homeless and the cold.

*People* **May we reflect the warmth and hospitality of Christ.**

*Leader* We pray for the needs and concerns of this community. (*Your prayers are now invited silently or aloud*). Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord.

*People* **For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Leader* We now pray together.

*People* **God of grace and love, whom we have praised with heart and song, grant that the words of our mouths may be lived out in our lives to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.**

## TAIZÉ CHANT

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O

Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

*Fine*

## THE PEACE

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

# BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*from Common Worship: Additional Eucharistic Prayers - published by Church House Publishing*

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

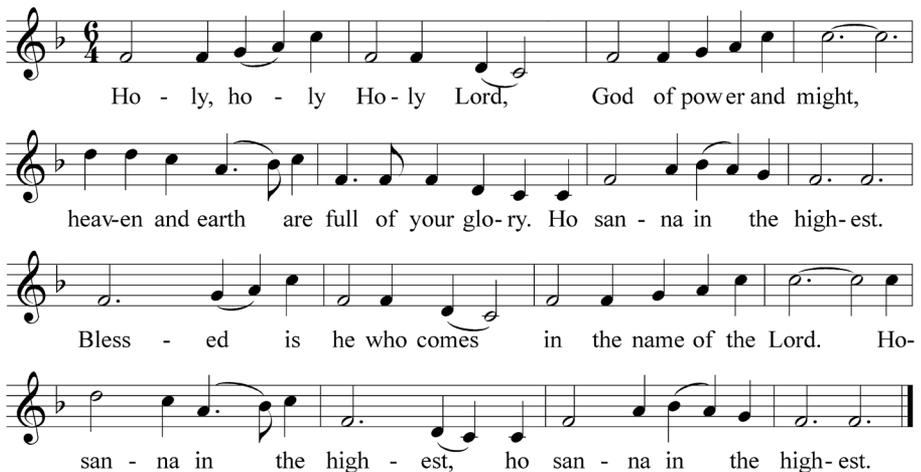
*Presider* Let us give thanks to God, our Life and Creator.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues*

**G**od of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us friends and families, communities to support us and care for us. You have made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with angels and archangels in singing your praise:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho san - na in the high-est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho  
san - na in the high - est, ho san - na in the high-est.

**W**e thank you, loving God, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying: "Drink this, all of you; this is my Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you and for all, for the remission of sins. As often as you shall drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

And so, present God, with this bread and this cup we celebrate your love, your death, your risen life. Send your creative Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us Christ's body and blood.

As we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, help us to love one another and all creation. Through the awakened and risen Christ, be all honor and glory, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**O**ur Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THE BREAD IS BROKEN**

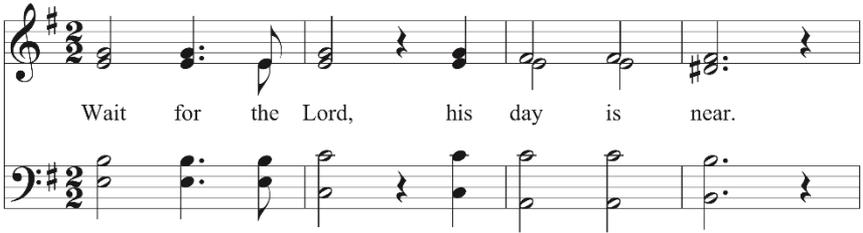
*The bread is broken, followed by silence.*

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

### **THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

## TAIZÉ CHANT



Wait for the Lord, his day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL





ST. PAUL'S  
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS