

LENTEN  
CONTEMPLATIVE  
SERVICE



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

*So that we may reuse this bulletin,  
please leave in the church after the service.*

## 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

*Celtic Benediction*

*Said by all.*

**I**n the darkness of the evening  
The eyes of our hearts are awake to you.  
In the quiet of the night  
We long to hear intimations of your love.  
In the sufferings of the world  
And the struggles of our lives  
We seek your graces of healing.  
At the heart of the brokenness around us  
And in the hidden depths of our souls  
We seek your touch of healing, O God,  
For there you reside.  
In the hidden depths of life, O God,  
There you reside. Amen.

## TAIZÉ CHANT

Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and  
pray, watch and pray.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system consists of two staves: a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and". The second system also consists of two staves. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "pray, watch and pray." The bass line provides harmonic support with sustained chords and moving lines.

## LISTEN

We meditate on the prayer that our Lord has taught us, opening our ears, hearts, and lives to receive God's peace.

*In the style of lectio divina, we hear a single phrase of the Lord's Prayer, followed by a passage of Scripture that helps to illuminate the prayer. The reading is repeated three times, followed by a time for meditation.*

*After the first reading, consider this question.*

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

*After the second reading, consider this question.*

- II. What memory does this prayer evoke for me?

*After the third reading, consider this question.*

- III. How can these words shape my prayer this very night?

## REFLECTION

## **AFFIRMATION**

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

*Said together*

**As children of God, we affirm:**

**That God, who is Love, created all and called it good, that God is present with all of creation, and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful; therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.**

**That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face, that he taught justice and reconciliation and suffered on our behalf, and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope; therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice, reconciliation, and hope.**

**That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us, that this same Spirit offers wisdom and discernment, and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way; therefore, we seek to be people filled with God's Spirit: discerning, loving, and transforming our world. Amen.**

## THE COVENTRY LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

*Leader* With our brothers and sisters around the world,  
we repent of the ways in which we fail to live in  
God's love.

*Leader* The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class from class,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* The covetous desires of people and nations to  
possess what is not their own,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* The greed which exploits the work of human  
hands and lays waste the earth,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
the homeless, the refugee,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* The lust which dishonors the bodies of men,  
women, and children,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves  
and not in God,

*People* **Holy One, forgive.**

*Silence*

*Leader* Loving God, have mercy on us, forgive us for forgetting to love, and renew our ability to give and receive love in all that we do in the name of Christ. **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.**

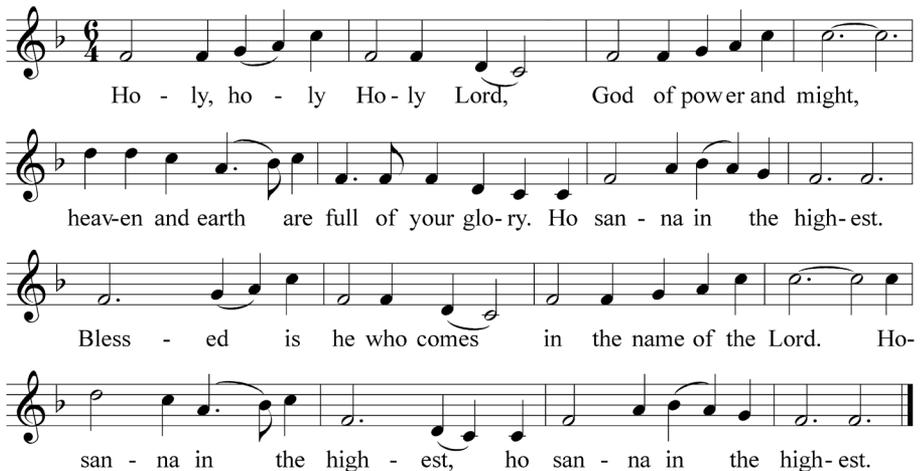
*Presider* Let us give thanks to God, our Life and Creator.

*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 us and 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**

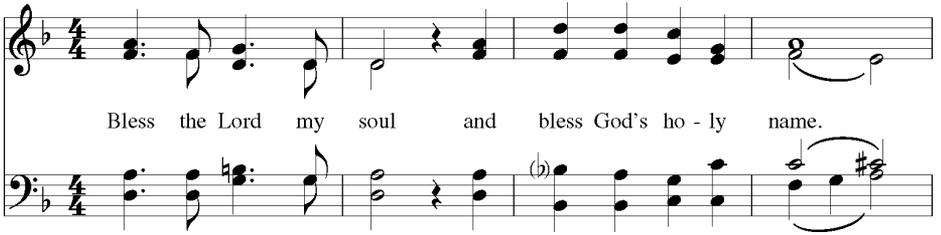
*The bread is broken, followed by silence.*

*Presider* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

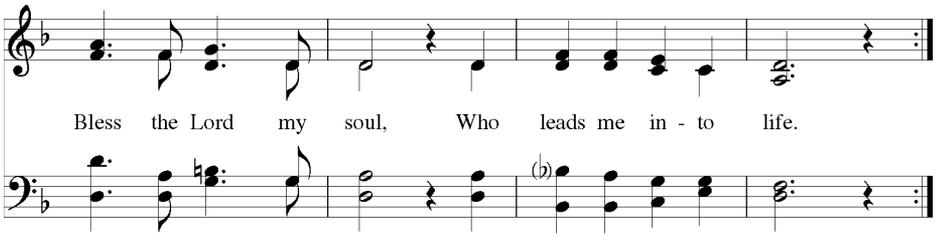
*People* **We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

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

## TAIZÉ CHANT



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

## 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  
forgiven, healed, and 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

### *Note about the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation:*

In November 1940 during the Second World War, Coventry Cathedral was bombed by Germany's Luftwaffe, leaving the cathedral and many lives in ruins. Amidst the rubble, two charred roof-beams which had fallen in the shape of a cross were bound and placed at the site of the ruined altar, three medieval roof nails were also formed into a cross, and someone wrote "Father Forgive" on the wall of the damaged chancel. The leaders of Coventry Cathedral decided then that the cathedral was called to be a beacon of Christ-like forgiveness and reconciliation. Since then, a deepening friendship between the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral and German churches gave birth to the Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN). Today, CCN is a worldwide network of some 250 churches, charities, peace-building centers, and educational organizations, all inspired by the Coventry story of destruction, rebuilding and renewal. This community is committed to healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity, and building a culture of peace. Member churches and organizations of CCN all pray the Litany of Reconciliation on a regular basis. To learn more, visit: [www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn)



ST. PAUL'S  
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS