

## Advent 3 – 11 December 2021

### **Gathering Song: O for a World** by Miriam Therese Winter

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

### **Blessing of the Advent Wreath** (light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent candle)

**Reader 1** As we light the Advent Wreath, we bring to mind all the people and the places in the world that are in need of light and joy this day.

**Reader 2** We bring to mind all those places in the world where families and countries are torn apart by conflict, violence, or war, and ask for the energy of light and joy to break through the darkness.

**Reader 3:** We bring to mind all those places in the world where people are suffering from disease or illness and ask for the light of healing to break through.

**Reader 4** We bring to mind all those places in the world where people are held captive by poverty, hunger, and isolation and ask for the light of freedom and abundant life to break through.

**Reader 5** May our prayers encircle the world and offer light in places of darkness. May we work as one body to bring justice and peace into the world. Enkindle hope in our darkened world and announce the dawn of your kingdom once again.

**Reader 6** O Season of Brilliant Sunsets, Come! Come to all that has grown dim in us. Sing your winter chants to our reluctant hearts. Cast beauty into our inner world. Reveal to us our own gift of being light in darkness. O Come!

O Antiphons for Winter – Adapted from *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr

## Sign of the Cross and Greeting

**Opening Prayer:** Strengthen our faith, cultivate our hope, and widen our love. Restore our awareness of your light-filled presence.

*Prayer Seeds, Joyce Rupp*

**Reader 7 First Reading:** A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

Shout for Joy, People of God! Sing joyfully!

Be glad! Celebrate with your whole heart!

Do not be afraid, my people. Do not be discouraged.

God is present among you, with a healing hand outstretched.

God will take delight in you, calming and claiming you with love; God will sing joyfully because of you.

Sorrow upon sorrow you have gathered, but your sorrows will dissipate. No longer will you know shame and sadness.

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reader 8: PSALM 100** from *Psalms for a New World* by Christine Robinson

**Psalm Response:** Be Joyful – everybody – rejoice in the gift of life.

***Be Joyful – everybody – rejoice in the gift of life.***

Be Joyful – everybody – Muslims, Christians, Pagans, Atheists.

Gladly serve the good. Rejoice in the gift of life.

***Be Joyful – everybody – rejoice in the gift of life.***

Highest above, deepest within; around us in nature, present in each. We are yours,  
You are ours.

***Be Joyful – everybody – rejoice in the gift of life.***

We enter your presence with Thanksgiving, with chants and songs,  
With grateful hearts and open hands, and know a flash of eternity.

***Be Joyful – everybody – rejoice in the gift of life.***

**Reader 9: Second Reading:** A excerpt from *Still on Fire* by Jan Phillips

I tell you this so you will ordain yourself a priest of the imagination and bestow blessings wherever you go - blessings on the people, blessings on the creatures, blessings on the maples, the pines, the rivers, the lakes.

We are called now to take it upon ourselves to proclaim the holy moments sacred, to stop the action and raise our hands and bless it out loud, joyfully, communally. The

old days are gone when you waited for a priest, deferred your own authority as a Child of the Cosmos, a Knower of Things, a Bestower of Grace.

I ordain you right now if you are hesitant. I have powers given me by the Spirit that blows through us. The world is hungry for our blessings. We are the ones now. We are the sacrament-makers. We are the writers of the new sacred texts.

Wisdom inspired by our God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Reader 10 Gospel:** A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke 1:39-52 (Translation: Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary, [www.womensordination.org](http://www.womensordination.org))

In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country. There, she entered the house of Elizabeth and Zechariah. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her child leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit! She exclaimed with jubilation, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! Why has this happened to me, that the mother of God's Anointed One comes to me? As soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to you by a messenger of God." And Mary sang.

*(Sung Magnificat, "Canticle of the Turning" by Rory Cooney, Teresa Donahoo, Gary Daigle)*

Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned to her home. The Gospel of God. **Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

## **Community Sharing**

**Prayers of the Community Response: Loving God, hear our prayer.**

As we place all our joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams on this table of love, we pray **Holy One, accept these gifts from our hands, for the praise and glory of your name, for our good and the good of all your people.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

God, you brought forth all creation from your Life-Giving Womb. O Love of the Ages, who was born from Mary's womb, we praise you and leap for joy in your presence.

*O Holy One of ancient Israel, you revealed yourself in Mary's womb, in a shining star, in humble shepherds, in a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. You embrace us with infinite love in every situation and relationship. You dwell in the depths of our hearts. We invite you to set us free and transform us as we gather around the table of your love.*

During this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel, who came to give us fullness of life. We share the bread of freedom and lift the cup of love.

We recognize Your Spirit alive and at work in this bread and wine and in us. We open ourselves to Your Spirit who transforms these gifts to become You in us, the body and blood of Christ. MMACC, San Diego

We remember how, on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and shared it with all those present, saying:

***Take this all of you and eat. This is my body which is given up for you. When you break bread together, remember me.***

At the end of the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared the cup with all those present saying:

***Take this all of you and drink. This is my blood, the new covenant of God-with-you. When you drink from this cup, remember me.***

*As we continue the memory of Jesus, we remember in prayer all who journey with us, especially our family, friends, and neighborhood communities. We pray for people of every faith and for peace in the hearts of all people. We also remember those who have gone before us, especially our loved ones, and all those on whose shoulders we stand.*

Open us to the inbreaking of your healing love in every area of our lives creating within us new life. May your Spirit birth a new world of peace and justice.

*May our Advent waiting birth in us an expectant hope.  
May our waiting birth a new discovery of your presence within and among us.  
May our waiting birth a deep, abiding joy for all life.*

Together we pray

***Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of Spirit Sophia, may all glory and honor be yours all-loving God, forever and ever. Amen.***

***The Prayer of Jesus – Our Faithful, Holy Mother*** by Jan Phillips from *There Are Burning Bushes Everywhere* (p.36) – adapted KGS

***Our Father, Holy Mother, Creator of the Cosmos, Source of Life,  
You are in my mind, in my garden, in my cup of wine and loaf of bread.***

***Blessed be your names: Mother, Allah, Beloved, Great Spirit, Radiant One, Yahweh, HaShem, Sophia.***

***Your presence has come, your will is done on earth as it is in the cosmos.***

**May we give each other strength, mercy, tenderness, and joy and forgive each other's failures, silence, pettiness, and forgetfulness as we ask to be forgiven by those we've hurt.**

**Lead us home to ourselves and each other, to clarity, to oneness and deliver us from the darkness of ignorance and fear.  
So we pray and so we receive. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

This my friends, is Jesus. Filled with joy are we who are nourished at this table of love.

**Jesus, you make us worthy to receive you, and by your word, we are healed.**

### **Reader 11 Prayer after Communion**

**God of light, we give thanks that you have asked us to be bearers of your light – sparks of your very self, illuminating the world and making love tangible. Forgive the way we try to evade being who we are, for the times we resist your invitation out of false humility and fear. As become flames of your love, may we recognize that we are not separate from you, but because of your will we are participants in the divine Mystery. This day may we be conscious of bringing light everywhere we go, building up a field of love that will help transform the world. Amen.**

Judy Cannato, Radical

Amazement

### **Blessing – Offered by all present**

**May the Star of Laughter sparkle in our eyes and in our smile.**

**May the Star of Understanding beam acceptance to those with whom we have difficulty.**

**May the Star of Delight lift our spirit and help us to see joy in simple things.**

**And may the Star of Peace be a ray of steadfast calmness and tranquility within us.**

**Amen.** Joyce Rupp, *Out of the Ordinary*, p. 13-14

### **Closing Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, to free your captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel! To you shall come Emmanuel.**

Veni, veni, Emmanuel. Captivum solve Israel.  
Qui gemit in exilio; Privatus Dei Filio

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel. Nascetur pro te, Israel.**

Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel. Nascetur pro te, Israel.  
Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel. Nascetur pro te, Israel.