



# Celtic Evensong & Communion

May 19, 2019 | 5:30 p.m.

Community of Faith United Methodist Church

*Welcome. To prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service but are located at the entrances to the church and the offering will benefit the Food Distribution Ministry. We are aware that persons here come from several faith traditions and are delighted for your presence. The mixture of faith traditions that makes up this community are cherished. We are glad you are here.*

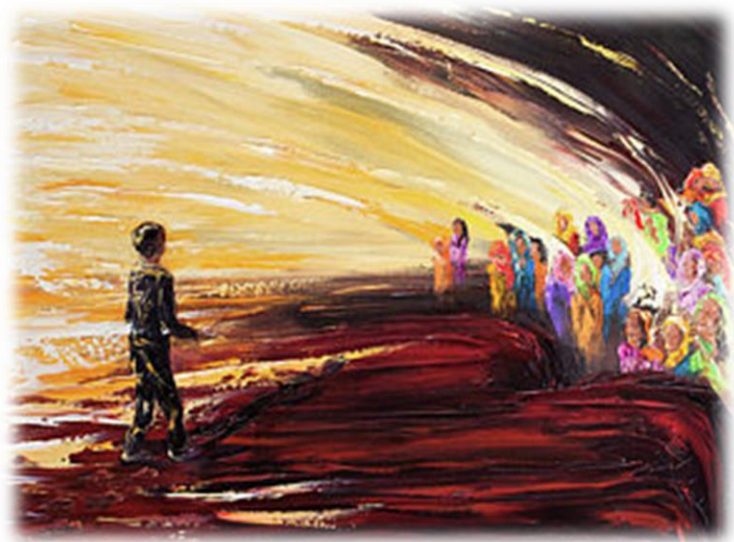
## PRELUDE

## GATHERING THOUGHTS

Richard Rohr

*Take a moment to reflect upon these words as you gaze upon this image:*

In Christ, we become God's Love.



## OPENING PRAYER

*Light within all light, soul behind all souls,  
At the breaking of dawn,  
at the coming of day,  
we wait and watch.*

***Your Light within the morning light.  
Your Soul within the human soul.  
Your Presence beckoning to us from the heart of life.***

*In the dawning of this day  
let us know fresh shining in our soul.  
In the growing colors of new beginnings all around us,  
let us know the first lights of our heart.*

***Great Star of the morning,  
inner Flame of the universe,  
let us be a conduit in this new dawning.***

**HYMN**

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

*The Faith We Sing #2128*

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

**PRAYER FOR COMMITTING OURSELVES TO GOD**

*O Lord, your presence is found  
within the foundations of the cosmos.*

***You are present in all things,  
as light is present in all things.***

*Prepare our hearts and minds  
to receive your abundant light.*

***Embolden us, your children,  
to be vessels of light ourselves,  
that the universality of your presence  
may be known in the particulars of our lives. Amen***

**MUSIC**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Colossians 1:15-19, II Corinthians 3:18

*Silence is observed after the reading*

**REFLECTON**

**HYMN**

*Christ Beside Me*

FWS #2166

**LITANY OF CONFESSION**

*Let us pray for all of God's Beloved:  
the creatures, great and small, the plants of the fields,  
and for all of humanity. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.***

*Let us seek forgiveness for our complicity  
in the exploitation of your beloved creation.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.***

When we fail to see your image in your beloved creation,  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

When we forget the deep wells of love and abundance  
which course through your beloved,  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

When we close our eyes to your magnificent light;  
when it feels as though the darkness closes in, blinding us to your love,  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Know this, my fellow children of light:  
Never can the light of Christ be snuffed out,  
never can the image of God be covered,  
never can your identity as beloved be lost.  
You are created in the deep flow of love, mercy, and peace.  
In those wells, you continue to bathe.  
In the eternal light of Christ, you are always forgiven.  
**In the Eternal Light of Christ, you are always forgiven.**

### RESPONSE

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Lis - ten, Lord, lis - ten, Lord, not to our words but to our prayer.— You a - lone, you a - lone un - der - stand and care."

## MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

*During the instrumental, the hymns, and at any time hereafter,  
you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayer.  
Tapers and votive candles are both in front of the sanctuary as well as behind the chairs.  
Please free to go to any of these places to light a candle.*

## THE GRACE

Love your enemies.  
Do good, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful, just as God is merciful.  
Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.  
Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Amen.

## THE PEACE

Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken.  
My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

*The minister and people greet one another in the name of the Lord.  
After the exchange, please be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom.

You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination,  
beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean,  
in the unending cycles of day and night,  
seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors,  
with the seas and earth and sky,  
with animals and birds,  
with our friends and those unknown to us,  
with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity.  
We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his

gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

**“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

**“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

So, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Come now, Spirit of God, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. And as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. Amen.

*And so, we pray:* **Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

As one body of believers let us unite our voices in prayer...

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our God who is in heaven, Holy is your name.

Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us our daily bread today;

and forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And do not lead us into temptation,

but deliver us from evil,

for yours is the kingdom,

and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## **THE INVITATION**

So, come to this table, you who have much faith

and you who would like to have more.

You who have been here often

and you who have not been here for a long time.

You who have tried to follow Jesus

and you who have failed.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

## **THE GIVING OF BREAD & CUP**

*All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion.*

*Gluten free bread is available by asking the celebrants.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands.  
Now we put our lives into yours.  
Take us, renew us and remake us.  
What we have been is past  
and what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.  
Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

**BLESSING**

Deep peace of the running waves to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Deep peace of the God of peace to you.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**HYMN**

*Creation Sings*

*Worship & Song 3018*

**DISMISSAL**

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage,  
hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil,  
strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak,  
help the suffering, honor everyone,  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**POSTLUDE**





## **St Patrick's Breastplate** (also known as The Deer's Cry)

*In this prayer, we find most, though not all, of the key themes of Celtic spirituality: journey or pilgrimage, nature and the immanent presence of God, Trinity, Christ-centeredness, conflict between good and evil, need for protection and communion with holy spirits.*

### **I arise today**

Through a mighty power:  
The Holy Trinity!  
Affirming Threeness,  
Confessing oneness,  
In the creating of all  
Through love.

### **I arise today**

Through Christ's power  
In his coming and in his baptizing;  
Through Christ's power  
In his dying on the cross,  
His arising from the tomb,  
His ascending;  
Through Christ's power  
In his coming for judgment and ending.

### **I arise today**

Through the strong power of the seraphim,  
With angels obeying,  
And archangels attending,  
In the glorious company  
Of the holy and risen ones,  
In the prayers of the fathers,  
In visions prophetic  
And commands apostolic,  
In the annals of witness,  
In virginal innocence,  
To the deeds of steadfast men.

### **I arise today**

Through the strength of heaven:  
Light of sun,  
Radiance of moon,  
Splendor of fire,  
Speed of lightning,  
Swiftiness of wind,  
Depth of sea,  
Stability of earth,  
Firmness of rock.

### **This day I call to me:**

God's strength to direct me,  
God's power to sustain me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's vision to light me,  
God's ear to my hearing,  
God's word to my speaking,  
God's hand to uphold me,  
God's pathway before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's legions to save me:  
From snares of the demons,  
From evil enticements,  
From failings of nature,  
From one man or many  
That seek to destroy me  
Anear or afar.

### **Be Christ this day my strong protector:**

Against poison and burning,  
Against drowning and wounding,  
Through reward wide and plenty...  
Christ beside me, Christ before me;  
Christ behind me, Christ within me;  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me;  
Christ to right of me, Christ to left of me;  
Christ in my lying, my sitting, my rising;  
Christ in heart of all who know me,  
Christ on tongue of all who meet me,  
Christ in eye of all who see me,  
Christ in ear of all who hear me.



Welcome to this time of worship. Community of Faith holds a Celtic Evensong Service the third Sunday of each month. Contemplative worship experiences are offered twice a month in our neighborhood as our neighbors at Epiphany Episcopal hold a service the first Sunday of the month at 5:30 PM.

*Sunday worship at Community of Faith is  
at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.  
All are welcome.*

**Acknowledgments:**

Gathering Thoughts are from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations on Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, NM | The Opening Prayer is from *Praying with the Earth*, John Philip Newell | The Blessing is from *Carmina Gadelica (13)* in *The Celtic Primer: The complete Celtic worship resource and collection* compiled by Brendan O'Malley (Morehouse Publishing) | Artwork Credit: *Restoration*, Cynthia Christine

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Rob Vaughn

**Musicians:** Mary Ann East; *First Light Ensemble* consisting of Sharyn Byer (flute), Claire Smith (flute) and Alexandra Molnar-Suhajda (harp)

***Ministers - The Entire Congregation***

*Music Director:* Mary Ann East

***Community of Faith United Methodist Church***

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