

Gathered into One
Lenten Worship
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Welcome

Tonight we gather in the name of our living God, our healer, our hope, and our only home. We come to hear the promises of God, to pray for unity, to pray for healing, and to pray for wholeness. And after this time of prayer is finished, we are sent into the world to share the light of Christ with all.

Litany

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

To sing praise to your name, O Most High.

To herald your love in the morning,

your truth at the close of the day.

Opening Song

Gather Us In

Chorus:

Gather us in, gather us in

God only knows where we have been

Gather us in, gather us in

1. We have come for mercy, we have come for peace

We have come with heavy hearts

Looking for release (*Chorus*)

2. God is God of mercy, God is God of peace

God has felt our heavy hearts

God has set them free (*Chorus*)

Opening Prayer

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you are the creator, helper, and healer of us all. Look upon the divisions in your world and help us to know that we are all your children, that all nations belong to one great family, and that your Holy Spirit leads us all to you. Multiply our prayers in every land until the whole earth becomes united in your love. Sustain our vision of a peaceful future and give us strength to work together to make that vision real. In the name of Jesus we pray, **Amen.**

Readings and Responses

Reading

1 Corinthians 12

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Song

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Refrain:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Reading

Colossians 3

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Song

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *(Refrain)*

Reading

Romans 15

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Song

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. *(Refrain)*

Message

Steve Boylan

Hymn of the Night

Spirit, Open My Heart

Chorus:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living,
As you love may I love in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.

1. God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender,
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *(Chorus)*
2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story,
In each thought, word, and deed may my living bring you glory. *(Chorus)*
3. May I weep with those who weep share the joy of friend and neighbor,
As I live from day to day, love will be my finest labor. *(Chorus)*

Sharing the Peace

Offering

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Closing Prayer

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus

*Written by the Benedictine Women of Holy Wisdom
Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin*

**Holy One, our only Home, blessed be your name.
May your day dawn, your will be done, here, as in Heaven.
Feed us today, and forgive us, as we forgive each other.
Do not forsake us at the test, but deliver us from evil.
For the glory, the power, and the mercy are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

Benediction

Almighty and merciful God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore. Amen.

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!