WORSHIP & COMMUNION

As you prepare to enter this time of worship, we invite you to find a piece of bread and cup of drink to partake when it's time to come to the Table. Then go to a quiet space with less distractions, maybe light some candles or dim your lights a bit, and prepare self for this time of prayer, reflection and communion.

"Fear of the Lord"

Ellen Davis defines fear of the Lord as true faith. She says that fear of the Lord is knowing where true power lies and following it.

Ringing the Trinity

Prelude	"Still, Still With Thee"	Zhaolei Xie
Introit	"The Kingdom of God"	Taylor Hightower

Summoning Prayer

Let us pray.

Because God is good, and has intended us to share that goodness, we open ourselves to nothing less than transformation as we pray, Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, Have mercy on us.

You are the Word behind all words, the calm at the core of the storm, the energy that sustains creation.

You are present in the pain behind the tears, the laughter in the eyes, the yearning in the heart. All these you share, yet your gift to us is much more.

So, open us up, Lord, we whose lives are locked, whose thoughts are well rehearsed, whose prayer is predictable.

Open us up to depths we have not explored, truths we have avoided, paths we have not followed, beauty we have yet to admire.

And open us up to Jesus, in whom all things are held together for God and for our good. Amen.

Musical Reflection

"Skye Boat Song"

Flor Cozza

The Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 12: 9-14

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes *The Message Version*

Besides being wise himself, the Quester also taught others knowledge. He weighed, examined, and arranged many proverbs. The Quester did his best to find the right words and write the plain truth.

The words of the wise prod us to live well.

They're like nails hammered home, holding life together.

They are given by God, the one Shepherd.

But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this:

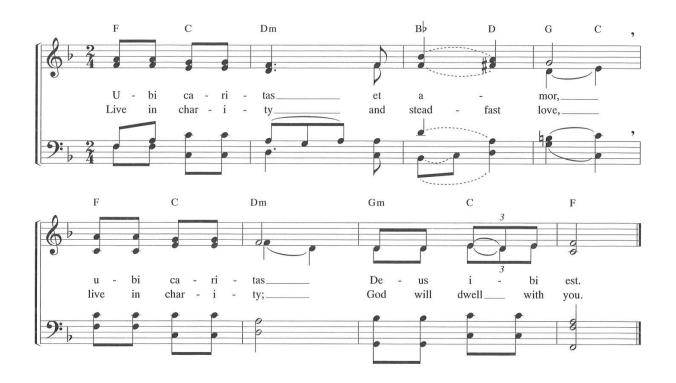
Fear God.

Do what he tells you.

And that's it. Eventually God will bring everything that we do out into the open and judge it according to its hidden intent, whether it's good or evil.

Taizé

Live In Charity



A Poem for Reflection

X by Wendell Berry

Loving you has taught me the infinite longing of the self to be given away and the great difficulty of that entire giving, for in love to give is to receive and then there is yet more to give; and others have been born of our giving to whom the self, greatened by gifts, must be given, and by that giving be increased, until, self-burdened, the self, staggering upward in years, in fear, hope, love, and sorrow, imagines, rising like a moon, a pale moon risen in daylight over the dark woods, the Self whose gift we and all others are, the self that is by definition given.

Musical Reflection

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Zhaolei Xie

Prayers for Ourselves and Others Let us pray.

Because you, God, love the world, because in Christ you walked it, we dare to pray: God, send your spirit; renew the life of the earth.

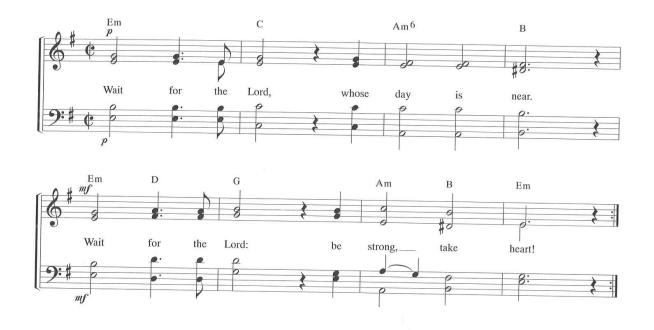
To connect the words of ancient scripture to the life of the world today; to let the urgent summons of Jesus surpass our reticence to respond, God, send your spirit; renew the life of the earth.

To awaken the minds of those in power to the realities of those they govern; to confront the arrogance of the privileged with the vulnerability of the poor, God send your spirit; renew the life of the earth.

To engage the fragile state of the planet with those who carelessly abuse it; to let the pain of those who are hurting awaken the caring potential in the healthy, God send your spirit; renew the life of the earth.

To eradicate the distance between our convictions and commitments, our potentials and our performance, our prayers and our politics, our faith and our discipleship, God, send your spirit; renew the life of the earth.

Convince us, gracious god, that matter matters and that all is up for redemption. And since in Jesus you destined all to be changed and made new, enable us to be agents of your purpose. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



A Poem for Reflection IX by Wendell Berry

The incarnate Word is with us, is still speaking, is present always, yet leaves no sign but everything that is.

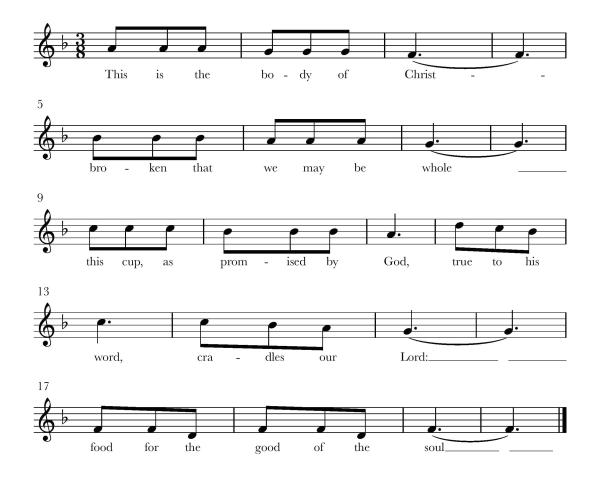
Musical Reflection

"Amazing Grace"

Flor Cozza

Holy Communion

π , η	riorg Commonion
The Peace	
Celebrants	The angels said it to startled shepherds and Jesus said it to frightened followers. And now these words which come from heaven are shared to make us whole and make us one: Peace be with you.
	r eace be with you.
Celebrant	The table of bread and wine is ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate.
	Loving God, through your goodness we have bread and wine to offer, which have come forth from the earth and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing, so that we may know your touch and presence in all things.
Celebrant	We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves. May they become in your presence a mark of the beloved community.



The Thanksgiving *Celebrants*

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

During the meal, he took bread. And when he had blessed it, he broke it and said to his disciples, "This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine; and after he had given thanks he said, "In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you... to remember me." So we will do as Jesus did. We take this bread and this wine, the produce of the earth and the work of human hands through which Jesus has promised to make himself known.

And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us follow his example.



Sharing of the Bread & Wine

Celebrant	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 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.
Celebrant	All of you who hunger and thirst for a better life, for a deeper faith, for a better world, here is the bread of life: let us together feed on it with gratitude; here is the cup of salvation: let us together drink from it and believe.

After Communion

Celebrant Let us thank God for the one to whom we are summoned, the one by whom we are sent, whose image we are, whose flesh we share, whose love is all.

