

**A SERVICE OF PRAYER  
FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY 2020**

**Sunday, October 11, 2020**



**St. Columba's Episcopal Church**  
Boothbay Harbor, Maine



## CELTIC EVENING PRAYER

In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.

What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.

Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,  
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.

There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .

In the quiet and the chaos,  
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.

All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,  
singularly focused on the healing of one another  
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,  
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.  
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,  
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day  
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,  
our prayers encircle the world continuously.  
We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.  
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed  
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,  
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.

So come as you are, let down your burdens,  
find your rest in God's expansive Love.  
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,  
sweeping 'round and 'round the world  
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

## THE GATHERING

Welcome

*The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker*

### Opening Responses

Leader: O God, who called all life into being,

**All: *The earth, sea, and sky are yours.***

Leader: Your presence is all around us,

**All: *Every atom is full of your energy.***

Leader: Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,

**All: *with her we yearn for justice to be done,***

Leader: For creation to be freed from bondage,

**All: *For the hungry to be fed,***

Leader: For captives to be released,

**All: *For your kingdom of peace to come on earth.***

### Opening Collect of the Day

Leader: God be with you.

**All: *And also with you.***

Leader: Let us pray,

Leader: Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn #490 "I want to walk as a child of the light"

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ.

I want to fol-low Je-sus.  
 I want to look at Je-sus.  
 I want to be with Je-sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and  
 When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

star of my life is Je-sus.  
 show me the way to the Fa-ther.  
 shall know the joy of Je-sus.

*Refrain*  
 In him there is no dark-ness at all. The  
 night and the day are both a-like. The  
 Lamb is the light of the ci-ty of God. *rit.*

*a tempo*  
 Shine in my heart, Lord Je-sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

## Opening Word “Light”

*The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston*

Receive the light. When the darkness gathers around you, when you grow weary, when your soul aches for the peace of years gone by, when you are afraid we have lost the trail and are walking deeper into the woods: that is exactly the time you need to receive the light. Don't hesitate. Don't doubt that it is there for you. Don't convince yourself that this darkness will be an endless night. It will not. Remember a lesson you learned in your own experience: It is when things are darkest that light shines most brightly. Even an ember at midnight holds the promise of the dawn to come. Receive the light. It will restore you. It will heal you. It will empower you to welcome a new day. And even if that day has its own struggles and tests, it will be lived in the light, where we can see one another, trust one another, and do what must be done to reconcile this moment to the history we are making. Do not be afraid. Receive the light.

*This poem is in the public domain, and may be read in a live-streamed worship service.*

## Confession for Indigenous Peoples Day

*from The Episcopal Church: Resources on the Doctrine of Discover*

***O Great Spirit, God of every people and every tribe,  
we come to you as your many children,  
to ask for your forgiveness and guidance.  
Forgive us for the colonialism that stains our past,  
the ignorance that allowed us to think  
that we could claim another's home for our own.  
Heal us of this history.  
Remind us that none of us were discovered  
since none of us were lost,  
but that we are all gathered within the sacred circle of your community.  
Guide us through your wisdom to restore the truth of our heritage.  
Help us to confront the racism that divides us  
as we confess the pain it has caused to the human family.  
Call us to kinship.  
Mend the hoop of our hearts  
and let us live in justice and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, the One who came  
that all people might live in dignity. Amen.***

Hymn #671 "Amazing grace! how sweet the sound"

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725–1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790;  
 compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus  
 Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851–1921);  
 harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919)

## WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

**Reading for the Day** Philippians 4:1-9

*The Message*

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Here ends the reading.

### **Response**

*All are invited to reflect on the readings with a symbolic action to declare their engagement with their prayers of thanksgiving and concern; be it lighting a candle, meditating, placing stones in sand, ringing a bell, planting seeds, drawing or writing.*

*a period of silence follows*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

*Daily Prayer for All Seasons, page 44*

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.



## Prayers of Concern

*You are invited to write down prayers of lament for the brokenness of the past. These may be specific toward the injustice inflicted upon the Indigenous Peoples of North America, or any other area of pain and brokenness that is on your heart today.*

*You are also invited to write down prayers for healing and restoration. These may be specific toward the injustice inflicted upon the Indigenous Peoples of North America, or any other area in need of God's healing and hope.*

Reader: O God of all creation  
who has come to us in Jesus,  
lead us in the way of love  
and fill us with your Spirit.  
Choose us  
to bring good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
to bring sight to the blind  
and set free the oppressed.  
So shall your new creation come  
and your will be done.

***People: Amen.***

Reader: Spirit of truth and judgment,  
who alone can cast out  
the powers that grip our world  
at the point of crisis,  
give us your discernment,  
that we may accurately name what is evil,  
and know the way that leads to peace,  
through Jesus Christ,

***People: Amen.***

Reader: Spirit of integrity,  
you drive us into the desert  
to search out our truth.  
Give us clarity to know what is right,  
that we may abandon the false innocence  
of failing to choose at all,  
but may follow the purposes of Jesus Christ.

***People: Amen.***

## Collect for the Nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
***Amen.***

## The Good Shepherd's Prayer

*Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Closing Responses

*As our Brother Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
using the words of a member of the Nez Perce tribe:  
O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe,  
You are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place.  
Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon.  
Whatever you want done,  
let it, also be done everywhere.  
Give us your gift of bread day by day.  
Forgive us our wrongs  
as we forgive those who wrong us.  
Take us away from wrongdoings.  
Free us from all evil.  
For everything belongs to you.  
Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.*

## Blessing

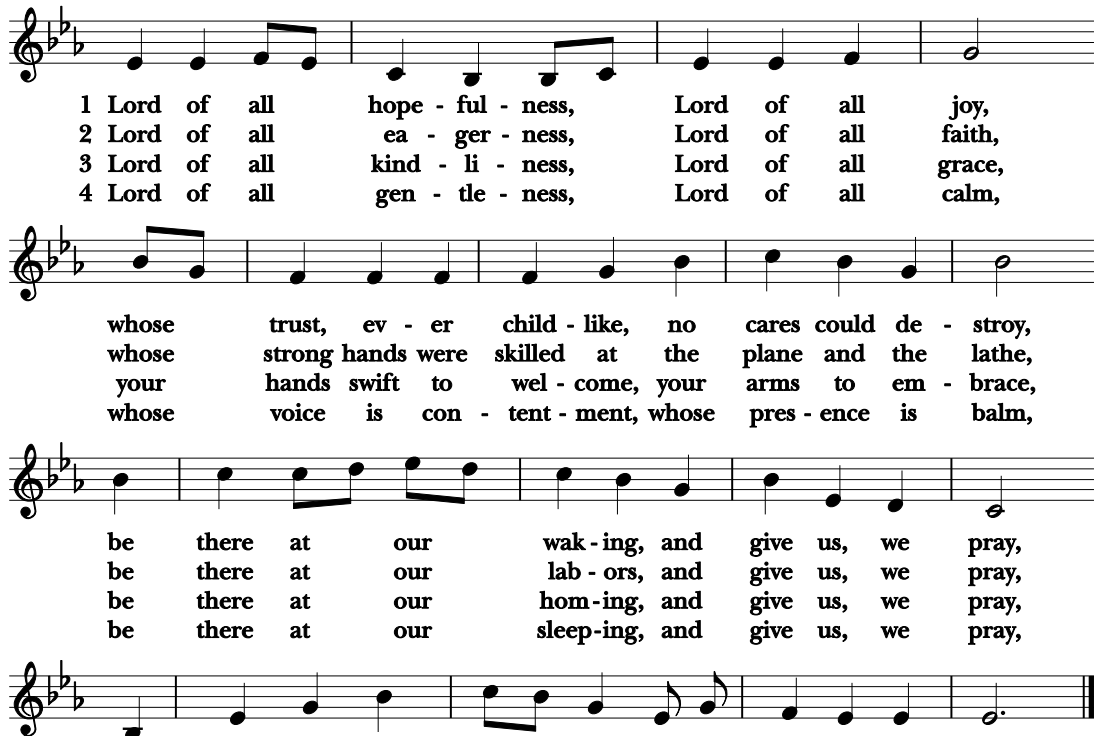
May the God who shakes heaven and earth,  
whom death could not contain,  
who lives to disturb and heal us,  
bless you with power to go forth  
and proclaim the Gospel.

*Amen.*

## Dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!  
*All Thanks be to God!*

Hymn #482 "Lord of all hopefulness"



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953)

Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal* 1982



*Please note that during this time of pandemic  
 St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.  
 Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
 32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*



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Bishop of The Diocese of Maine*

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