

Welcome: Holy Wrestle: A Lexicon of Faith in Progress: Faith and Doubt

Invitation to a worship with CONTEMPLATION...

Today our time together will be a liturgical gathering engaging in ancient and traditional practices to experience the presence of God within and all around. We will practice our value of contemplation to be present to the Divine, ourselves, our place, our time, and our people, welcoming all into the transformative way of life in Christ.

Prayer of Belonging:

Loving God, Christ is inviting all people to the table and to this life in you and this cultivation of sacred community. All people, young and old, rich and poor, black and brown and white, gay and straight, cisgender and transgender, single and married and divorced, those with disabilities seen and unseen, conservative and liberal, and all of those in between. Those with faith and doubt—in joy and tears. All are invited into life in you, with one another, and for the hope of our world. Amen.

Worship in Song:

Poem and Prayer:

Do You Believe in God?

By Padraig O Tuama

I don't believe in God, I said, and she said, Oh?
Somehow I thought you'd managed to keep that going
even though I haven't. She asked if I'd told others.
Yes, I said, I have. I mean, it's not like I'm
saying I Know About What Is. It's just that the burden
of belief isn't on me anymore. God, it feels much freer.
I believe I'm in the room next to belief. I hear
the sounds of prayers coming through the walls. I like
the smell of incense. And the sound of fabric rustling fabric

as the people stand or kneel. Sometimes I can tell
the text by the intonation of the reader. I mutter
the responses underneath my breath. Lift up your hearts.
And do you? she asked, Lift up your heart?
Yes, I said, I do, but I don't know to who.
Whom, she said, Let's get started on the soup.

Worship in Song:

Blessing of the Children *-(Introduce yourself, invite kids preschool-5th grade to come up to the front. This is a time we bless the children to go to their circle time. Ages preschool-2nd grade will meet upstairs and ages 3rd-5th grade will meet in the basement. If this is your first time, you are welcome to join your child. Parents and caregivers will be dismissed to pick up their children at the time of communion. Please join me in blessing the children...)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you

As you go together in belonging.

May the Lord shine on you and be gracious to you

As you wonder and play.

May the Lord turn toward you and give you peace.

Go in peace.

Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God,
Increase our doubt that
armaments and wars bring peace;
that science and intelligence alone can cure the ills of the world;
that human beings are the controllers of all things.
Give us grace to blush for our mistakes and arrogance,
forgiveness for our foolishness
and power to live as stewards of creation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Vulnerable God,
You have brought us to this hour by our several ways,
unfaithful as we have been
You have nevertheless kept faith with us.
Pry us from the host of distractions to which we give ourselves so freely.
Strengthen our resolve to commit ourselves to the Beloved Community.
Counter our desire for wealth and reputation with an urge to serve
In the way of Christ.**

+Take a moment of silence for personal confession and reflection+

Words of Assurance

Leader: How strangely comforting, Lord,
That so many of your servants
Have doubted you.

So,
If I cannot always see the sense
Of your word;
If I do not always feel confident
About my faith;
If I wonder where your love is
In the face of pain and death;
I am not the first.

A great company of saints and martyrs
Has felt this way before me.
Now, in your presence,
They see face to face
And know as they are known.

Teach me, like them,
Not so much to fear doubt

As to see it
As a sign of the mystery of life
And a door to discovery.

Remind me that no matter what, that I am Your beloved.
Amen

Passing the Peace (embodied)

-Please Stand-

(place palms over your heart)

Leader: God makes peace within us.

All: Let us claim it.

(bind opposite hands together)

God makes peace between us.

All: Let us share it.

The peace of God is here to stay.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(extend palms out as a blessing to all)

Community Announcements

Sacred Readings

Let us open our hearts, souls, bodies, and minds to receive what the Spirit is inviting us into from Psalm 13 and the book of Hebrews chapter 11:

How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long must I wrestle with my thoughts

and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.
⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.
⁶ I will sing the Lord's praise,
for he has been good to me.

Hebrews 11:1-2

Trusting Creator is the solid ground our hope rests on. It means we can be sure of the things we do not yet see. 2For it was this kind of trusting that brought honor to our tribal ancestors. 3By trusting, we understand that the Great Spirit, by his voice, created all that we can see. By trusting we understand that the things we see were brought into being by that which we cannot see."

— *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament*

For the Word of God in Scripture
For the Word of God among us
For the Word of God within us

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: *Holy Wrestle: Faith and Doubt*

Offering

Communion

Worship in Song:

Doxology

Please make a circle around the sanctuary
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above you heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

Blessing and Sending