

Participant Sheet #6, Closing Liturgy

Welcome & Candle-lighting

Your light is in our eyes.
Your beauty is in our hearts.
Your goodness is everywhere.

Chant:

A Reading from the Psalms: Psalm 31:9-16a

The Gospels record that Jesus prayed the Psalms from the cross. What consolation might Jesus find in these words? What hope or comfort is just for you today?

Be a comfort to me, Beloved, for I am
 in distress;
 my eyes are dim from weeping,
 my soul is deep with grief.
For my life is worn away with sorrow,
 and my years with sighing;
My body has weakened and my bones
 waste away with misery.

All my fears rise up to mock me,
 my neighbors turn away,
My friends dread to see me and
 flee from my sickness of soul.
My mind, too, has left me
 like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
Yes, I hear the voices around me
 whispering of my plight –
 fears rise up on every side!
Isolation, rejection, fear surround me
 and conspire to overwhelm me.

Still, I trust in You, O Beloved,
 I repeat, “You are my Life.”
My life is in your hands;
 deliver me from the fears which
 separate me!
Let your face shine on me;
 hold me in your steadfast love!

From *Psalms for Praying* © 2007 Nan C. Merrill See: Psalmsforpraying.com

Silence for Reflection



Prayer 1: Letting Go, Heartbeat by Heartbeat

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.

Forgive our hidden past, the secret shames,
as we consistently forgive what others hide.

Lighten our load of secret debts as
we relieve others of their need to repay.

Erase the inner marks our failures make,
just as we scrub our hearts of others' faults.

Absorb our frustrated hopes and dreams,
as we embrace those of others with emptiness.

Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to others.

Compost our inner, stolen fruit as we forgive others the spoils of their trespassing.

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.

Douglas Klotz, Meditation on the Aramaic Words of Jesus.

Chant:

Prayer 2: Prayers of Concern

Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
no hands but ours,
no feet but ours,
ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion
is to look out to the earth,
ours are the feet by which he is to go about doing good
and ours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.

St Teresa of Avila

Prayer 3: Blessing Ribbons

Blessing Chant

This liturgy was prepared by Janice MacLean, Host of the Prayer Bench.

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