

Interwoven Worship

Sisters, Mothers, Friends

2017 Retreat & Annual Meeting
of the
Episcopal Church Women: Diocese of Missouri

Mercy Center, Des Peres
November 10 – 11, 2017

Whenever we gather, wherever we gather, prepare for worship.
Notice you're breathing. Notice your breathing.
Breathe in Christ's Peace, God's presence.
Breathing out, let go of tension & worry. Open your heartspace.

Centering Tone



As the ringing fades, we empty ourselves to meet our God in quietness & trust.

We encourage marking the transition to worship physically perhaps making the sign of the cross, prayer hands, or touching finger to thumb.

Invocation

The Moot Community

Celebrant Gracious God, Source of our life and Giver of our freedom,
be present with us now.

Open our ears to hear YOUR Word to us;

Open our eyes to see YOU in our companions on the journey;

Open our minds that they might be nourished by YOUR wisdom;

Open our hearts that they might be emboldened by YOUR love;

Open our lips that they might speak of YOUR goodness.

ALL **Pour out YOUR Spirit upon us that we may be made more fully alive.**

+ Feel free to make the sign of the cross.

Celebrant We meet in the name of God the Creator,
Jesus – our Redeemer,
and the Spirit – our Companion.

Amen.



☯ ← **This weekend, this kind of swirl invites you** (any of us here) **to read.**
You may prefer simply to rest & listen. Don't worry. Our worship unfolds
in God's time. If you speak at the same time, you can continue together.

Friday, November 10 — 5:30pm Prayers on the way to Dinner

☉ The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

~Thérèse of Lisieux

Loving God, YOU lead us to this place,
not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life,
but to heal us and inspire us, to gently redirect us,
till we see the world as YOU do and love it with YOUR love. **Amen.**

ALL **Lord, teach us the silence of humility,**

Wee Book p. 54, adapted

☯ the silence of wisdom.

☯ the silence of love,

☯ the silence that speaks without words,

☯ the silence of faith.

ALL **Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds
that we may listen for the movement of YOUR Holy Spirit
and feel YOUR presence in the depths of our being.**

Celebrant During this time together,
may all our conversations be grounded in the calm of God's presence.

ALL **We are not here for chitchat.
We have come to feed our souls by seeking and serving Christ in our
sisters, mothers and friends.**

Celebrant God bless our conversations, and our teaching and learning from creation,
from each other and from our ancestors. May we soak the fabric of our souls in a
dye-bath of wisdom, peace, joy, light, harmony and healing. May the inevitable
annoyances that snag our merely human interactions be transformed into prayer,
humility, forgiveness, self-awareness, love and laughter.

As we enter the Dining Area, may we see the food gratefully and imagine where it
has been and the many hands that have brought it to us. May the earth that brought
it forth and the hands who made it possible be as blessed as we feel tonight.

ALL **Blessed are YOU, O Lord God, Life of the Universe, for YOU give us food
to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad.**

Bless this food to our use and us to YOUR service. Amen. ☉

Friday, November 10 — 8:30pm Prayers with Tapping for healing

☉ Let our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

ALL **In the evening, we sing YOUR praise, O God.**

☉ God, YOU have always given me tomorrow's bread:

Wideness of God's Mercy[adapted]

ALL **And, although I am poor; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU have always mapped out tomorrow's road:

ALL **And, although it is hidden; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU have always given me tomorrow's peace:

ALL **And, in spite of my distress; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU have always given me tomorrow's strength:

ALL **And, although I am weak; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU have always given me tomorrow's light:

ALL **And, in spite of the darkness; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU have always spoken when I was in doubt:

ALL **And in spite of YOUR silence; tonight, I believe.**

☉ God, YOU are my life; YOU are my endless joy.

ALL **Even in death; forever, I believe.**

Psalm 139: 1-12, 22-23

ALL **LORD, YOU have searched me out and known me; ***

☉ YOU know my sitting down and my rising up;

☉ YOU discern my thoughts from afar.

ALL **YOU trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

☉ Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but YOU, O Lord, know it altogether.

☉ YOU press upon me behind and before *
and lay YOUR hand upon me.

☉ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

ALL **Where can I go then from YOUR Spirit? *
where can I flee from YOUR presence?**

☉ If I climb up to heaven, YOU are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, YOU are there also.

☪ If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

ALL **Even there YOUR hand will lead me *
and YOUR right hand hold me fast.**

☪ If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

ALL **Darkness is not dark to YOU;
the night is as bright as the day; ***

☪ darkness and light to YOU are both alike.

ALL **For YOU yourself created my inmost parts; *
YOU knit me together in my mother's womb.**

☪ Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.

☪ Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

ALL **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

A Time for Personal Healing through Tapping ~ 3 rotations

"Even though I fill in the blank with your issue : *positive statement*."

Positive statements: make your own or choose from:

- Peace, love, joy
- I totally and completely love and accept myself
- God loves me
- life is good
- Christ's in me & I'm in Christ

Celebrant Now, O Lord,

by Ted Loder*

ALL **calm [us] into a quietness that heals and listens,
and molds [our] longings and passions, [our] wounds and wonderings
into a more holy and human shape. Amen.**

Intercessions with Taizé refrain:

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

celebrant Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

celebrant Let us bless the Lord. ALL **Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** ☉

~Romans 15:13

Saturday, November 11 — 7:10am Light Yoga Morning Prayer (waking up in body & soul)

☉ We [humans] have worshiped longer than we have spoken, stood in awe of life's beauty and power, even before we had words to describe that feeling. We have marked out our sacred places, over and over, high places and low, holy wells, mysterious caverns, lofty perches where we thought we might catch a glimpse of angels. [In years of old,] we said the Earth was full of spirits, and so it was, for we saw creation not as a thing but as a being, [God's] Presence around us, at once unseen and yet very near.

ALL **As humans, we follow our instinct as surely as the birds,
we migrate toward the holy, over and over again.**

~Bp Steven Charleston

Celebrant Send out YOUR light and truth that they may lead me,
and bring me to YOUR holy hill and to YOUR dwelling.

Celebrant Let our mouth proclaim YOUR praise, O God.

People **And YOUR glory all the day long.**

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

Is 26:3; 30:15

Reader O God, you keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on YOU.

ALL **for in returning and rest, we shall be saved.
In quietness and trust shall be our strength.**

A Daily Prayer

Celebrant God: Give us strength to live another day.

The Rev. Phillips Brooks 1835–1893

ALL **Let us not turn coward before its difficulties
or prove recreant to its duties;**

☪ Let us not lose faith in other people.

☪ Keep us sweet and sound of heart,
in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness.

☪ Preserve us from minding little stings or giving them.

Celebrant **Help us to keep our hearts clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly
that no outward failure can dishearten us
or take away the joy of conscious integrity.**

ALL **Open wide the eyes of our souls, that we may see good in all things.**

☪ Grant us this day some new vision of YOUR truth.

☪ Inspire us with the spirit of joy and gladness,

ALL **and make us the cup of strength to suffering souls
in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Celebrant Lord, for the food that we are about to receive, make us truly grateful.

ALL **and bless our ECW with YOUR wisdom, joy and grace,
that we may fulfill YOUR calling through our leadership. Amen. ☉**

Saturday, November 11 — Noonday Prayer

Iona'16 p24f

☉ Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,
Lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
Unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

ALL **YOU are present among us.**

☉ O hidden Mystery,

☉ Sun behind all suns,

☉ Soul within all souls,

ALL **In all we touch, in all we meet, YOU are present among us.**

☉ As bearers of YOUR image, we come to be reshaped;

ALL **dependent on YOUR mercy, we ask to be made new.**

A reading from Paul's 2nd letter to the church in Corinth

2 Cor.5:17-18 [adapted]]

Reader If anyone is in Christ, *she* is a new creation

ALL **The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!**

Reader All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to *herself* and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Celebrant And now —looking toward lunch— we pray:

ALL **Interweaving God, YOU strung the warp of creation and set the shuttle of YOUR Holy Spirit into motion, weaving the patterns and wonders of life. We thank YOU for the beauty of the earth, for the diversity of land and sea, for the resources of the world, and for the food it provides. Give us the will to cherish this planet, and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen. ☉**

Saturday, November 11 — 2pm Eucharist & Blessing of Scarves

Opening Acclamation ^{sitting}

☉ Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Prayer for All the Saints, Sisters, Mothers & Friends knit together in Christ

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Thomas Cranmer 1549 BCP

All-loving God, YOU knit together YOUR elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of YOUR Son Christ our Lord:

☩ Give us grace so to follow YOUR blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living,

☩ that we may also come to those ineffable joys that YOU prepare for those who truly love you;

ALL **through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with YOU and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

ALL **Loving God, YOU led us to this place,** ~Thérèse of Lisieux [adapted]
NOT to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life,
but to heal us and inspire us, and to gently redirect us.
Help us see the world as YOU do, and love it with YOUR love.
Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures. The best book about women faithful to God and each other: A reading from the Book of Ruth, ch.1, v.16-17

[Upon the death of Naomi's husbands and sons who'd left Israel in a time of famine and married Moabite women, Naomi —anticipating a life of poverty— decided to return to Bethlehem. She urged her daughters-in-law to go back to their families of origin, too. But Ruth refused to leave Naomi to fend for herself. She pledged:]

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

ALL **Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people, and your God my God.
Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried.**

Reader May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome, ch.12, verses 1-6

From The Voice

Brothers and sisters, in light of *all I have shared with you about God's mercies*, I urge you to offer your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice *to God*, a sacred offering that brings God pleasure; this is your reasonable, essential worship.

Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image.

Instead, be transformed *from the inside out* by renewing your mind.

As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills
and whatever God finds good, pleasing, and complete.

[... Do not] think of yourselves as being more important than you are; devote your minds to sound judgment since God has assigned to each of us a measure of faith. For in the same way that one body has so many different parts, each with different functions; we, too —the many— are different parts that form one body in Christ, the Anointed One.

ALL **Each one of us is joined with one another,
*and we become together what we could not be alone.***

**Since our gifts vary depending on the grace poured out on each of us,
*it is important that we exercise the gifts we have been given.***

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Readings from the Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to YOU, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 12, verses 46-50: While Jesus was speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. ...Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!

ALL **For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
is my brother and my sister and my mother."**

Matthew 5, verses 14-16: *After teaching the beatitudes, Jesus told the crowds:*

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

ALL **In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."**

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to YOU, Lord Christ.**

Weaving God's Word into our Lives

An Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant With the whole church,

Iona'01

ALL **We affirm that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.**

Celebrant With people everywhere,

ALL **We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.**

Celebrant With all creation

ALL **We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
the unfolding purposes of God,
forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

ALL **Jesus, Love of all loving, you were always in me and I was forgetting YOU. YOU were in my heart of hearts and I was looking for YOU elsewhere. When I kept myself far from YOU, YOU were waiting for me. And now I dare to tell YOU: Risen Christ, YOU are my life.**

- ☪ For those who are far from home, immigrants, exiles, victims of oppression, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ For those who are going through trials, who need help and compassion, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ For all of us gathered here, that we may remain attentive to those entrusted to us, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ That we may be delivered from all anxiety, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ That we may learn to share more fairly the resources of our planet among all, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ That a sense of wonder at the beauty of creation may remain alive in us, Lord, we pray. ☉
- ☪ That we may find light & courage in the mystery of communion that is the Church, Lord, we pray. ☉

Celebrant **Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** ~Philippians 4:6-7

The Peace Standing — then circulate & greet.



Celebrant **The Peace of the Lord
be always with you.**

People **And also with you.**

We greet each other in the Lord's name.

HOLY COMMUNION

Self-Offering with Sign Language

ALL **Ourselves, our lives: souls & bodies**
 —*all that we are*—
 we offer to YOU, O Lord.

Blessing our Scarves

Celebrant Loving Lord,
 in creation, compassion, sacrifice, forgiveness, healing and
 reconciliation, YOU weave us into the tapestry of YOUR saving grace.

We thank YOU for blessing our time together
for re-shaping and mending our lives and relationships.

Now we ask YOUR blessing on these scarves we have dyed with plants
and metals bearing the imprint of YOUR self
that overflows into every aspect of nature.

We look forward to the mystery of their unveiling,
and to the mystery of our own unveiling
as we strive to let your light shine through
and transform our lives more and more.

ALL **When we wear these scarves, still our minds and our souls.**
 Help us feel and know that our lives are interwoven with YOURS,
 with the earth YOU have made, and with our sisters and brothers,
 mothers and fathers, children, neighbors, strangers, friends, and lovers,
 with whom YOU call us to be the body of Christ in blessing all the world.

When you come forward for Communion, please pass your hands over the
bags of scarves in an act of solidarity, prayer, and blessing.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, for YOU made us, and before us,
 YOU made the world we inhabit.

ALL **And before the world, YOU made the eternal home
in which, through Christ, we have a place.**

Celebrant All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in YOU;
all that is lovely, all who are loving point to YOU as their fulfillment.

ALL **And grateful as we are for the world we know and the universe beyond,
we praise YOU for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.**

Celebrant For His life informs our living; His compassion changes our hearts;
His clear speaking contradicts our generalities.

ALL **For His disturbing presence, His innocent suffering, His fearless dying, His rising to life
breathing forgiveness & knitting us into one body ~ we praise YOU & worship Him.**

On the night before He died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread. When
He had given thanks to YOU, He broke it, and gave it to His friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is MY Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of ME.”



As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when He had given
thanks, He gave it to them, and said:


“Drink this, all of you: This is MY Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you —and for all— for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of ME.”



And now, lest we believe that our praise alone fulfils YOUR purpose,
we fall silent and remember Him who came because words weren't enough.
Setting our wisdom, our will, our words aside, emptying our hearts,
we yearn for the healing, the accepting, the forgiving which Christ alone can offer.

silence

Merciful God, send now, in kindness, YOUR Holy Spirit
to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let that same Spirit rest on us,  Feel free to make the sign of the cross,
converting us from the patterns of this passing world,
until we conform to the shape of Him whose food we now share.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

ALL **Blessing & honor & glory & power be to our God for ever and ever
AMEN.**



The Lord's Prayer

Traditional

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be THY Name.
THY kingdom come,
THY will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For THINE is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

☩ With the bread we need for today, feed us.

NZPB

☩ In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

☩ In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.

☩ From trials too great to endure, spare us.

☩ From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

ALL **For YOU reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.**

*These 5 petitions & doxology of the Lord's Prayer are stolen from a version in the New Zealand Prayer Book. Many of their prayers —developed in communion with the Maori people— are striking, relevant and poetic. I learned in Feb.2017 that their bishops request that others NOT appropriate their work & snatch it out of context. We've used it weekly at St. Martin's 505 since 2011. I find replacements unsatisfactory. I'm a thief—a grateful one. ~emily**

Fraction Anthem

Wee Book p.88

Celebrant **HE whom the universe could not contain, is present to us in this bread.
HE who redeems us and calls us by name now meets us in this cup.
So take this bread and this wine.**

People **In them God comes to us, so that we may come to God.**

About Communion

- **GLUTEN-FREE** Communion is available in the silver box & small chalice. Just point.
- **CHRISTIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS MAY RECEIVE COMMUNION IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**
If you are not baptized or are not comfortable, the priest is happy simply to pray a blessing on you if you come forward.

Prayer after Communion standing

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALL **Lord,** we have been guests at YOUR table.
Come with us wherever we go, and be present in all we share.
Summon out in us whom YOU have fed
courage and generosity of spirit
to ensure that all the hungry are nourished,
and earth's barren places —at home and abroad— are fertile
with food, faith, hope and love. Amen.

Iona'16 p.44

A Prayer of Interwoven-ness: "St. Martin's Cross"

by Pat Bennett in *Thin Place*

Celebrant [In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS, O God,
our sufferings and sins, our shortcomings and mistakes
meet YOUR healing and YOUR redemption.]

- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
brokenness meets re-making.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
restlessness meets peace.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
bondage meets liberation.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
weakness meets strength.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
selfishness meets servanthood.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
death meets resurrection.
- ☪ In the intertwining of my life with YOURS
YOUR kingdom comes.



St. Martin's Cross was carved about 800CE on the Isle of Iona and stands by the once-ruined, repaired monastery now home to an ecumenical community that "gets it" and sparks fresh liturgy that is both relevant and steeped in tradition.

ALL **In the intertwining of our lives with YOURS, O God,
our sufferings and sins, our shortcomings and mistakes
meet YOUR healing & YOUR redemption.] Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal standing upright, as able, with your shoulders back

Celebrant Live without fear:
Your Creator has made you holy,
has always protected you,
and loves you as a mother.
Go in peace to follow the good road
and may God's blessing be with you always.

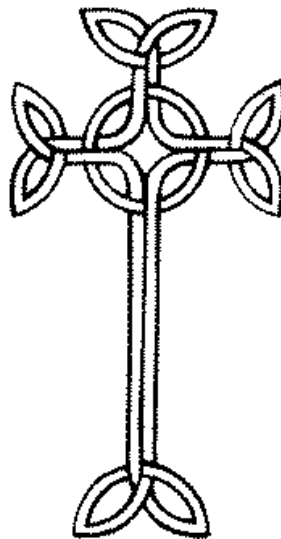
ALL **Amen.**

St. Clare of Assisi

Centering Tone



As the bell sings, you may raise your arms, breathing in and gathering the challenges and blessings of the Holy Communion that we have woven together in retreat, into your heart, into your lives.



Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis leads worship much like this on Saturday nights at St. Martin's in Ellisville. She is mostly a liturgical collage artist using other people's amazing liturgy and insights. The source notations are not complete in this booklet. Please contact her if you'd like more source information.

Basic sources:

Bible Translations mostly from *New Revised Standard Version* most commonly read in Episcopal churches ©1989 (NRSV) as found on Zondervan's biblegateway.com. Some liturgy from *Enriching Our Worship, liturgies of The Episcopal Church*, sanctioned in our diocese (EOW), and a bit from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Many prayers are found in collections published by Wild Goose Publications of the Iona Community in the Scottish Hebrides Islands: *Wee Book=A Wee Worship Book*, 4th&5th Incarnations, 1999&2015, *Iona=Iona Abbey Worship Book* by the Iona Community, 2001&2016), *Thin Place=Around a Thin Place: Iona Pilgrimage Guide*, 2011.