



## **Holden Evening Prayer Around the World 2026**

Letter from the Directors

Thank you for participating and lending your voice to Holden Evening Prayer Around the World.

This sacred gathering invites people across the globe to join together and lift our voices in music and prayer. We last hosted this event in summer 2024. With all that's going on in our communities and world today, our petitions for healing and justice are needed more than ever. Let us support and draw strength from one another, reaffirming our values as people called, equipped, and sent to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

If this is your first connection with Holden Village, welcome. Your presence makes our community more complete.

Holden Village creates transformative spiritual experiences that make the world a more just, sustainable, and compassionate place. Over the last 65 years, we've welcomed tens of thousands of individuals and families to Holden's faith-rooted programs that invite people to renew their relationships with God, the earth, and each other. Founded in the Lutheran tradition, Holden practices an inclusive Christianity of every sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religious background, and gender identity.

Holden Village is located in a former mining town in the heart of Washington's North Cascade Mountains and is only accessible by boat or hiking through rugged terrain. Most visitors travel up Lake Chelan and a ten-mile forest service road to reach the Village. We operate year-round, with a population ranging from 40 in the winter to over 300 in the summer.

This past December, an atmospheric river brought unusually warm temperatures and heavy rain to Washington state, triggering mudslides and severe washouts that damaged roads and infrastructure throughout the region. Several slides heavily damaged Forest Service Road 8301—the only road into or out of the Village.

Until the road can be repaired, Holden Village will remain closed to guests. A small group of Holden staff remain in the Village, while other staff members continue their work remotely. Together, we are focused on caring for Holden's operations and infrastructure, connecting with the Holden Village community, and preparing for our future reopening.

While it is difficult to see the Village closed, events like Holden Evening Prayer Around the World remind us that Holden is much larger than a small mining town in the mountains. Holden is not just a place or location, but a living community. A community that puts its values into practice. A community that stands in contrast to the values of a world where distraction, greed, and narrow self-interest reign supreme in too many cases. A community that commits to one another and puts our time and gifts into living out these values.

As you come together to join in Holden Evening Prayer Around the World, you are part of that community. Thank you for joining with us and for lifting up your voices of compassion and justice. May our prayers rise like incense, and may we continue to work to become the community for which God longs.

Peace, love, and good courage,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'C. Bjørn Peterson' and the second signature on the right is 'Elise Peterson'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bjørn & Elise Peterson  
Holden Village Co-Directors