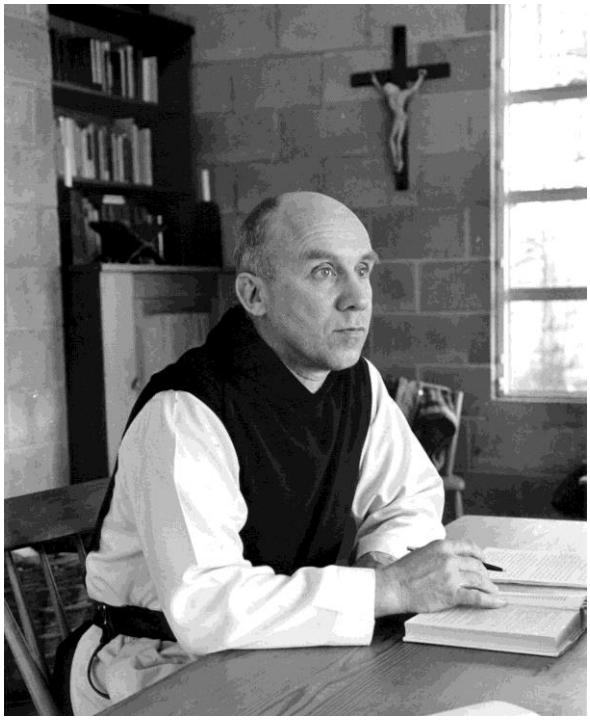


Photo of Thomas Merton by John Howard Griffin. Used with permission of the Thomas Merton Center and the Merton Legacy Trust.

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR
Deer Isle Maine

Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Remembering Thomas Merton on his birthdate
January 31, 2021

Prelude: *F minor prelude, WTC Bk II* J.S. Bach

A brief silence

Leader: O God, shine your light on us and bring us to see your Christ made manifest,
that our lives may be a light to the world;
Congregation: **May all be led by your star to acclaim a new birth of love and peace in the midst of our darkness, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen**.

Confession -- A prayer by Thomas Merton

Congregation: **My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.**
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton (Thoughts in Solitude, 1958)

Opening Hymn 647 *I know not where the road will lead (see back of bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Christ has shown forth his glory:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 57: 14-21

"Build up, build up, prepare the way,
remove every obstruction from my people's way."
For thus says the high and lofty one
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.
For I will not continually accuse,
nor will I always be angry;
for then the spirits would grow faint before me,
even the souls that I have made.
Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;
I struck them, I hid and was angry;
but they kept turning back to their own ways.

I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;
I will lead them and repay them with comfort,
creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.
Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord;
and I will heal them.
But the wicked are like the restless sea which cannot be stilled
its waters stir up mud and slime
There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 46 *To the choirmaster, Of the Korahites. According to alămot. A song*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
Thunder rolls, the earth melts.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what 'desolations' he has brought on the earth:
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Music Selection: *Allemande* W. A. Mozart

Gospel: Mark: 1:21-28
Leader: The Gospel according to Mark
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**
Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having

authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.
Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Time for Response

Affirmation

We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.
We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.
Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer Chant *(see back of bulletin)*

The Collect of the Day
Leader: Gracious God, you called your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim your justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: We pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.
Congregation: **Hear our prayers for the world.**

Leader: We pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.
Congregation: **Hear our prayers for all who are in need.**

Please offer your own prayers at this time

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.** *alt. Richard Rohr*

Sending Hymn 649 *O Jesus, joy of loving hearts (see back of bulletin)*

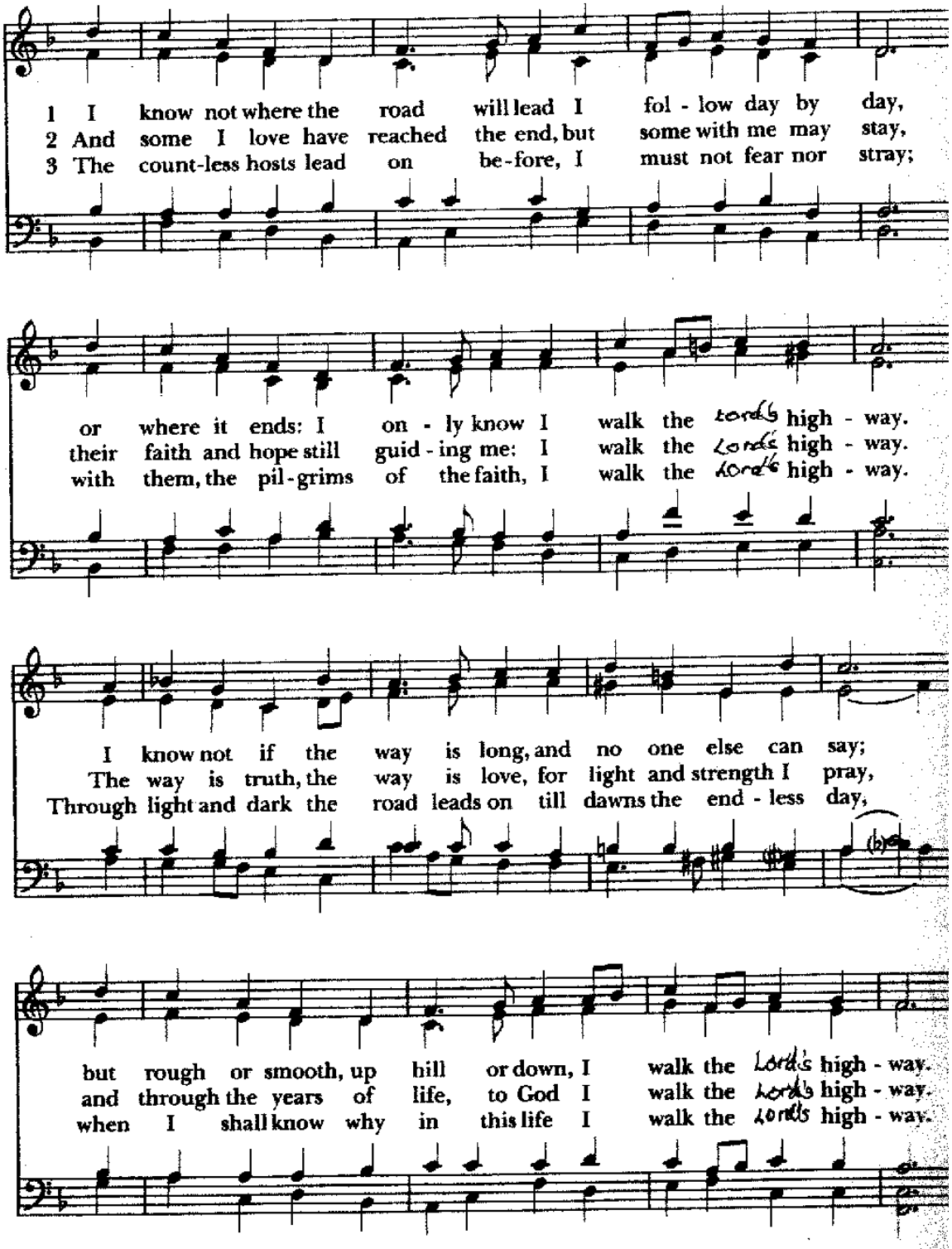
Postlude: *Gigue from French Suite #5* J.S. Bach

Dismissal

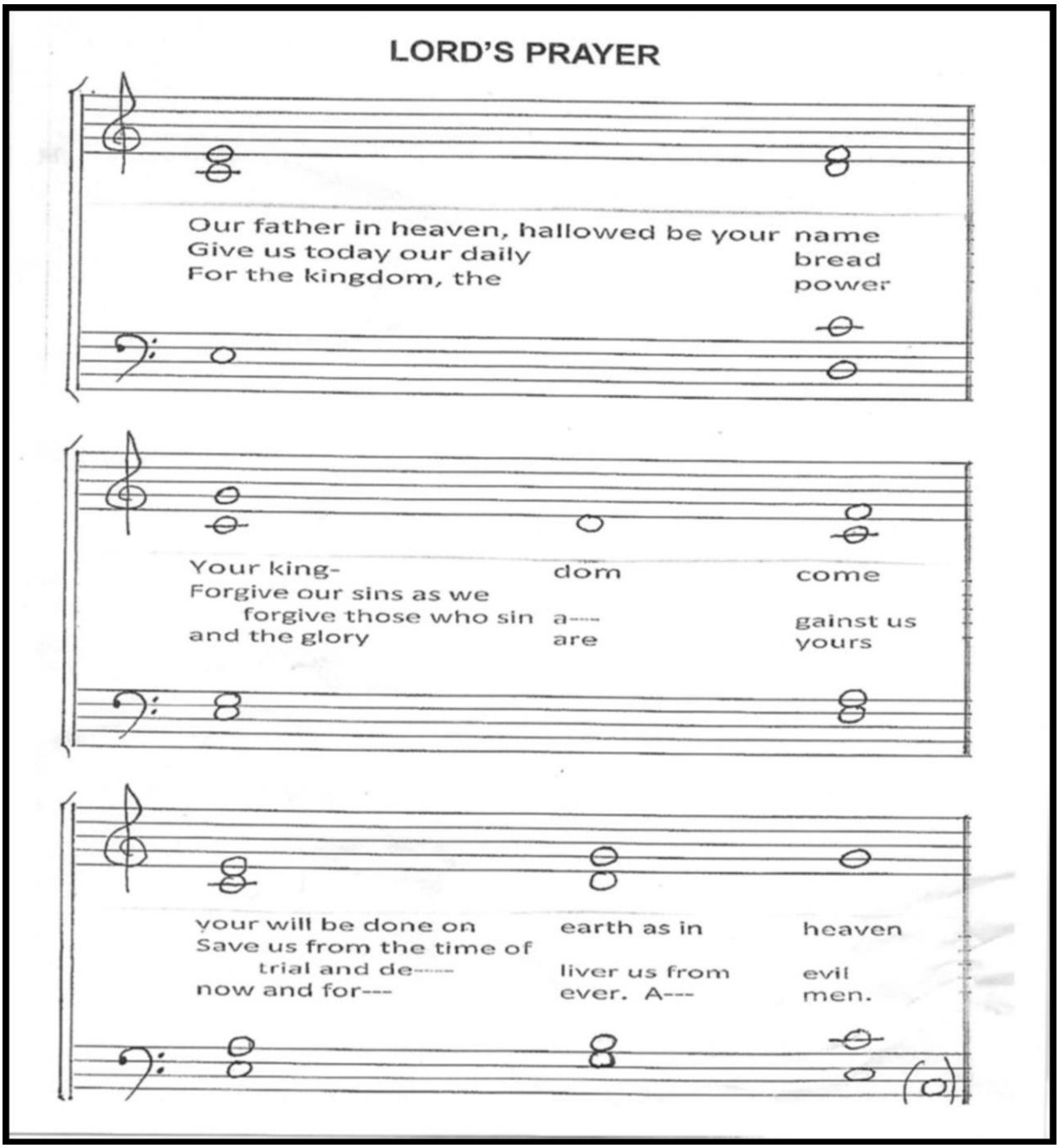
Announcements

You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

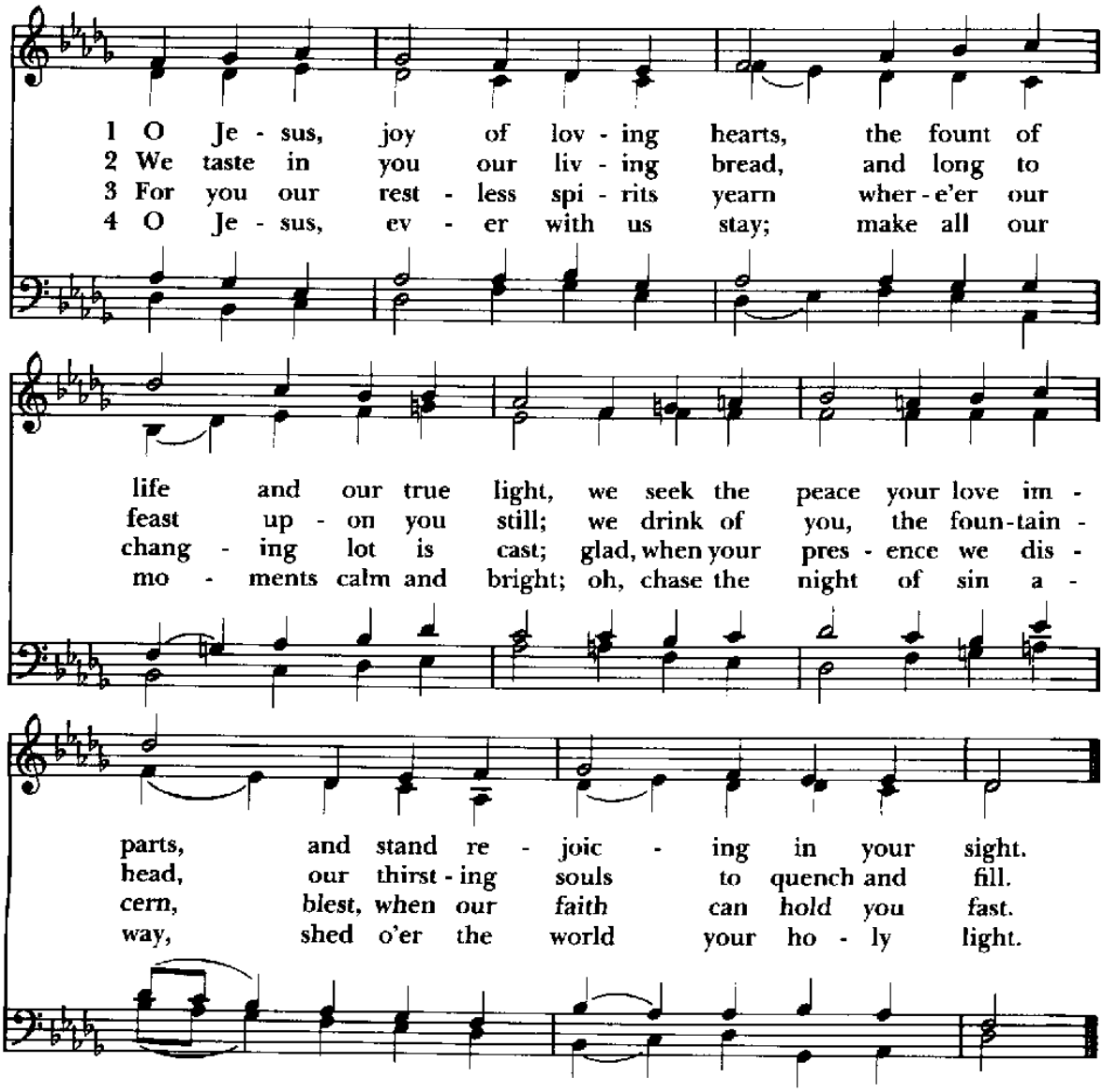
Prayers of the People taken from *Prayers for Racial Reconciliation and Justice,*
the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music



Words: Evelyn Atwater Cummins (1891-1971)
Music: *Laramie*, Arnold George Henry Bode (1866-1952)


LORD'S PRAYER
Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name
Give us today our daily bread
For the kingdom, the power
Your king- dom come
Forgive our sins as we
forgive those who sin a--- gainst us
and the glory are yours
your will be done on earth as in heaven
Save us from the time of
trial and de----- liver us from evil
now and for--- ever. A--- men.

649 The Christian Life



Words: Att. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153); tr. and para. Ray Palmer (1808-1887), alt.
Music: *Dickinson College*, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979) LM