

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Leader: Grant me the courage to serve others

People: For in service there is true life.

Leader: Bring forth song and celebration

People: so that the Spirit will be alive among us!

Leader: Let the Spirit flourish and grow

People: so that we will never tire of the struggle

Leader: Let us remember those who have died for justice,

People: for they have given us life

Leader: Help us love even those who hate us

People: so that we can change the world, Amen!

Opening Song

“As A Fire Is Meant For Burning”

See next page for lyrics

First Reading

Our first reading today was written by Jean Vanier, a French Spiritual writer and Founder of L'Arche Communities

See next page for reading

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14: 13-21

See next page for reading

Gathering Song

“Give Thanks”

See next page for lyrics

Sermon

“A Faith that Shares”

Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson

Prayers of the People

(Join us in singing when invited)

*Not the preacher, not the deacon,
But it's me, O God, Standing in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher, not the deacon,
But it's me, O God, Standing in the need of prayer*

*It's me, It's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer*

**And, now, we will rise as we are able and pray the prayer
Jesus taught us, saying...**

Our Creator, who art in heaven

Hallowed be Your name

Your kingdom come Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory Forever. Amen

Offering

Offertory & Doxology

Join us in singing

I've Got Peace Like A River, I've Got Peace Like A River,

I've Got Peace Like A River, In My Soul.

I've Got Peace Like A River, I've Got Peace Like A River,

I've Got Peace Like A River, In My Soul.

Communion

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Join us in singing the Communion Song when invited

*Make us One, Lord, Make us One,
Holy Spirit, Make us One Let Your love flow
So the world will know, We are One in You*

Closing Song

“Go Make A Difference”

See next page for lyrics

Benediction

Lyrics

"As A Fire Is Meant For Burning"

As A Fire Is Meant For Burning With A Bright And Warming Flame,
So The Church Is Meant For Mission, Giving Glory To God's Name.
Not To Preach our Creeds Or Customs, But To Build A Bridge Of Care,
We Join Hands Across the Nations, Finding Neighbors Ev'rywhere.

We Are Learners; We Are Teachers; We Are Pilgrims On The Way.
We Are Seekers; We Are Givers; We Are Vessels Made Of Clay.
By Our Gentle, Loving Actions, We Would Show That Christ Is Light.
In A Humble, List'ning Spirit, We Would Live To God's Delight.

As A Green Bud In The Springtime Is A Sign Of Life Renewed,
So May We Be Signs Of Oneness 'Mid Earth's Peoples, Many Hued.
As A Rainbow Lights The Heavens When A storm Is Past And Gone,
May Our Lives Reflect The Radiance Of God's New And Glorious Dawn.

"Give Thanks"

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart, Give Thanks To The Holy One,
Give Thanks Because You've Given Jesus Christ The One.
Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart, Give Thanks To The Holy One,
Give Thanks Because You've Given Jesus Christ The One.

And Now Let The Weak Say "I Am Strong"; Let The Poor Say "I Am Rich"
Because Of What Our God Has Done For Us. And Now Let The Weak Say "I Am
Strong";

Let The Poor Say "I Am Rich" Because Of What Our God Has Done For Us.

Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart, Give Thanks To The Holy One,
Give Thanks Because You've Given Jesus Christ The One.
Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart, Give Thanks To The Holy One,
Give Thanks Because You've Given Jesus Christ The One.

And Now Let The Weak Say "I Am Strong"; Let The Poor Say "I Am Rich"
Because Of What Our God Has Done For Us. And Now Let The Weak Say "I Am
Strong";

Let The Poor Say "I Am Rich" Because Of What Our God Has Done For Us.
Give Thanks!

"Go Make A Difference"

Congregation sings chorus when invited

Go Make A Diff'rence. We Can Make A Diff'rence.
Go Make A Diff'rence In The World.
Go Make A Diff'rence. We Can Make A Diff'rence.
Go Make A Diff'rence In The World.

First Reading

"From the outside, community can seem such a beautiful place of sharing, cooperation, mutual support and so on. But as soon as we are inside it, we quickly begin to see each other's faults! At the beginning, we idealize others. Then, as we get close to them, we begin to see only what is negative. We have to pass through these stages in order finally to meet people as they really are, neither angels nor demons, but human beings, beautiful but wounded, a mixture of light and darkness. These are the people with whom we have made a commitment to live and grow together..."

There is always the danger of picking and choosing. We enjoy being with certain people, who are charming, funny, and intelligent...but little by little the novelty wears off...when difficulties arise there are danger of wanting to simply drop that friend...

... .We choose our friends, but, we do not choose our brothers and sisters, our siblings. In the same way, our companions in community are not of our choosing. This is where the difficulties of community life begins...some people attract us, some rub us the wrong way.

These difficulties can lead people to run away from community, to cut themselves off from those they find unsettling, to become introverted and refuse to communicate, to accuse and condemn others; or it can lead them to work on themselves to struggle against selfishness and their need to be at the center of everything so as to welcome, understand and serve others better. When this happens, community life can become a school of love and source of healing."

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were more than five thousand men, women and children.