



# ALL SAINTS CHURCH

## **AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR NOONDAY PRAYERS** Tuesday, November 3, 2020

### **PRAYER OF MEDITATION**

*We encourage you to use the following prayer for meditation.*

Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds. Let us return to ourselves and become wholly ourselves. Let us be aware of the source of being, common to us all and to all living things. Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion, let us fill our hearts with our own compassion – towards ourselves and towards all living beings. Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to each other. With humility, with awareness of the existence of life, and of the sufferings that are going on around us, let us practice the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

—Thich Nhat Hanh (b. 1926)

**WELCOME**

Sally Howard

## CALL TO WORSHIP

God is the hope of people laboring for freedom.  
God is a refuge in times of uncertainty.  
Even in struggle, Her offerings are an abundance.  
Her grace calls us down from seats of unjust power.  
She unveils the heavens within and around us.  
She sets before us feasts of beauty and possibility.  
Come and gather with joy. God longs to draw near.

—*Enfleshed*

## READING

A Reading from Philippians (4:7–9).

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank God for all God has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. God's peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*A period of silence is observed following the reading.*

**PSALM 27**

O God, you are my light, my salvation – whom will I fear?

You are the fortress of my life – of whom will I be afraid?

When my enemies attack me, spreading vicious lies about me wherever they go, they, my adversaries and foes, will stumble and fall.

Though an army mounts a siege against me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, I will still be confident.

One thing I ask of you, O God, one thing I seek:  
that I may dwell in your house all the days of my life,  
to gaze on your beauty and to meditate in your Temple.

You will keep me safe in your shelter when trouble arises,  
you will hide me under the cover of your Tabernacle – you will set me on a rock, high and out of reach.

Then I will be able to hold my head up, even with my enemies surrounding me.  
I will offer in your Tabernacle sacrifices of great joy –  
I will sing and make music to you, O God!

Hear me when I call! Have mercy on me and answer me!  
You say to my heart, “Seek my face,” and so it is your face I seek!

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your faithful one away in anger.  
Do not reject me, do not desert me, O God of my salvation,  
for you are my only help.

Even if my own parents reject me, you, O God, will accept me.  
Teach me your way, and lead me on a straight path because of my enemies.

Do not surrender me to the will of my enemies; for defamers rise up against me breathing violence.

Even so I have confidence that I will see the goodness of our God  
in the land of the living!

Wait for God – stand tall and let your heart take courage!  
Yes, wait for our God.

## **GOSPEL**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (5:1–12)..

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, the disciples came to him. Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

*A period of silence is observed following the reading.*

## **MEDITATION**

## PRAYER

God Almighty,  
 Makor Chayim,  
 Source of Life,  
 You have given human beings  
 immeasurable gifts,  
 not the least of which is that of free will.  
 The ability to create our own destiny.  
 To determine our own course.  
 This season of voting,  
 many will choose to exercise our free will  
 at the polls,  
 to voice our choice for leadership  
 and policy.  
 As we do, teach us to appreciate  
 the significance of this sacred act:  
 As we review the voting packet,  
 guide us with clear vision of  
 Your most cherished values.  
 As we pick up the pen,  
 remind us that we are writing  
 the next pages of our lives.  
 As we cast our votes,  
 remind us not to cast away  
 the humanity of our fellow human beings.  
 As we await the results,  
 remind us of those  
 who cannot afford to wait for justice.  
 God of Emet, God of truth,  
 Teach all who monitor and administer the  
 polling places to value the truth,  
 to ensure a fair process and an accurate  
 count of the hopes of the people  
 even as many are ineligible to vote or  
 have already been discouraged  
 from doing so.

May the true will of the people  
 be be voiced indisputably.  
 Adonai Ezri, God my helpmate,  
 Fortify my spirit as  
 I await the results of this election,  
 with so much at stake for so many,  
 sustain me through the length of the tally,  
 and may my faith in humanity be affirmed  
 in the days of November.  
 Shechina, spread over us all  
 Your great canopy of peace,  
 over all who walk in your ways,  
 and those who do not.  
 May you inspire us all to make room  
 for our fellow human beings,  
 the earth,  
 and all of its inhabitants.  
 May your tent be open and wide.  
 We desire closeness to You.  
 Let us not be cast out from your midst.  
 Baruch at Yah,  
 Blessed are You,  
 source of all that is just  
 hear our prayer  
 for the sake  
 of all your precious Creations.  
 Amen.

—Rabbi Heather Ellen Miller

## PRAYER

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

—attributed to St. Francis

## BENEDICTION

In days filled with uncertainty, we hold fast to the truths that ground us. We keep our hearts set upon all that is just. All that is freeing. All that deepens our connections and commitments to one another. If we choose to follow, Love will lead us. May this be our prayer and our practice, today, this week, and all of our days. Amen.

—*Enfleshed*

## CLOSING BLESSING