

# 2015 Summer – Missing the Point

## GATHERING



## ENTRANCE

## REFLECTION

Certainty is missing the point entirely.

Anne Lamott, *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*, p 257.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Always-present One, whom we are always  
seeking,  
we stumble blindly on our way to you.

People: Holy One beyond our imagining,  
closer than our breath,  
we abandon our answers  
for the questions that are you.

Leader: Bread of life, thirst-quenching Spring,  
we find eternal life in this very moment with  
you.

People: Signpost, mile-marker, our way home,  
we follow your parables into the unknown,  
where we are fully known and loved.

Leader: God of miracles and mystery, we are your  
Body.

All:                    Fill our hearts and minds,  
                          that we may share you with all the world.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SILENCE**

## **PRAYERS**

### **CONFESSION**

Leader:            God of mystery and miracles,  
                          we know we are called to trust in you.

People:            Yet we trust in the limited power of our  
                          own minds.

Leader:            Your truth is beyond human understanding,

People:            But we believe that we know what is best.  
                          We think we know it all, fooling only ourselves.

Leader:            You are the creator and lover of all living  
                          things.

People:            Still, we are convinced  
                          that we are right and others are wrong,  
                          forgetting that all are your creatures.

Leader:            We are mere humans in this vast realm of  
                          yours.

All:                    Forgive us our self-centeredness,  
                          and restore in us a humble heart.

## **ASSURANCE**

Leader:            God knows our flaws, our sins, and our  
                      shortcomings,  
                      and loves us all the same.  
                      By the power of God's grace we are forgiven,  
                      even before we know we need it.

All:                    Amen.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

## INTERCESSION AND PETITION

## COMMITMENT

All:                    O Holy One, we come today  
                          to claim our relationship with you.  
                          We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
                          sharing the gifts you give us with others  
                          here and in the wider world.  
                          Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
                          and help us forgive those who have hurt us.  
                          Give us strength and discipline  
                          to nurture our relationship with you;  
                          to care for every part of your creation;  
                          to foster justice and be in solidarity with those  
                          in need;  
                          to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
                          and to respond joyfully when you call,  
                          freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

                          We open our hearts to you and your  
                          creation

                          in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ.  
Amen.

## HYMN

## **THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

## **OFFERING**

### **COMMUNION**

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the  
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at  
once;

All:                   Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of  
knowing,  
believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: God of mystery and miracles,  
we give you thanks for all that is seen and  
unseen,  
for the gifts of faith and forgiveness,  
even when all seems lost.

People:            We give you thanks  
for the parables and teachings of Jesus,  
who held up bread and said it was his body,

and passed the cup and said it held his blood.  
Leader 2: We give you thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
who opens us to new questions  
every time we are sure we have the answers.

People: We give you thanks for your Holy Church,  
where we become what we already are,  
the Body of Christ.

#### BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of  
life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall never hunger,  
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and cup  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

#### SHARE THE ELEMENTS

If you do not wish to receive the elements today you are welcome to join the circle and allow them  
to pass, or remain in your seat. We serve grape juice in our cups.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks  
for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.

Bless this body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully  
to our call to be your servants,  
with each other and throughout the world.

All: Amen.

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Despite missing the point entirely,  
let us go forward in the knowledge  
that the Holy One is with us,  
nudging and encouraging  
even as we blunder along.  
Knowing that you are our signpost,  
our mile-marker, and our way home,  
let us greet one another with signs of peace.

All: Amen.