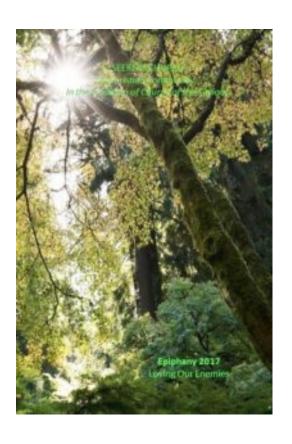
2017 Epiphany - Loving Our Enemies

GATHERING. ENTRANCE



REFLECTION

Wage peace with your breath.
Breathe in firemen and rubble,
breathe out whole buildings
and flocks of redwing blackbirds.
Breathe in terrorists and breathe out sleep

Breathe in terrorists and breathe out sleeping children and freshly mown fields.

Breathe in confusion and breathe out maple trees.

from the poem, "Wage Peace," by Judyth Hill http://www.judythhill.com/home.html

CANDLE LIGHTING CALL TO WORSHIP

deeds.

Leader: Holy Light of the World,

you call us to be salt and light,

to show the world your love through our

People: We come to wage peace,

to become light for a world that is filled with shadows.

Leader You call us to love our enemies,

to breathe in the pain of the world

and breathe out compassion.

People: We come to wage love,

to become a shelter from the storms of rage

and hatred.

Leader: You call us to loose the bonds of injustice,

to let the oppressed go free.

All: We come now to become the Body of Christ,

breathing out the healing of the world.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: Holy One, Jesus challenged us to love our

enemies.

But we confess People:

that we would rather ignore our

enemies

than love them.

Even when we try, our efforts are half-Leader:

hearted.

We fail to understand the power of your People:

love.

Leader: Our hearts are too small and too guarded

to truly love our enemies.

All: Forgive us for not remembering hat the world's healing hinges

not on our capacity for love, but on

yours.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: God forgives us for our unloving ways.

People: Amen

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION

COMMITMENT

All: 0 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,

rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: Gracious loving God, we give you thanks for your breath that allows us to find healing for ourselves and to offer it to our world. People: We give you thanks for Jesus, who forgave others, even with his last breath. Leader 2: We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit, the very breath of your being, that heals our wounds and stirs our compassion. All: We give you thanks for your Holy Church that supports us as we breathe out the fragile breath of peace.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

thirst.

me.

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

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

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:

0 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.

The wafers are gluten-free.

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: Let us answer God's call to wage

to breathe out love and light,

healing and compassion.

And now, with God surrounding us,

Jesus beside us, and the Holy Spirit within us,

let us greet one another with signs of peace.

All:

Amen.