

# 2018 Lent: The Foolishness of Faith

## GATHERING



Image adapted from Hokusai (1760-1849)  
"Under the Wave off Kanagawa"

SEEKERS CHURCH  
A Christian Community  
In the Tradition of Church of the Saviour  
Lent 2018  
The Foolishness of Faith

## ENTRANCE

## REFLECTION

Today's Gospel challenges us to decide if we will judge Jesus as outrageously impossible to follow or if we will ask him to take us with him out onto the unruly sea of gospel living. Are we willing to take on the crazy mind of Christ?

Sr. Mary McGlone, CSJ, *Give Us This Day*, January 2018, p. 211

## CANDLE LIGHTING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, come together in the presence

of the One in whom we believe.

People: We come to the One who gives life to the dead,  
the Spirit who calls all things into being.

Leader: All who are weary, weak, broken, lost—come!

People: Leaving behind our false selves,  
we come to find our true life in you.

Leader: Come and embrace this foolish faith:  
the realm of God is in our midst.

All: We come to Jesus, asking only for love  
and grace to follow him on the way.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SONG AS THE CHILDREN LEAVE FOR CLASS**

Jesus loves us as we grow,  
meets us on the paths we go,  
keeps us safe and keeps us free,  
helps us learn who we should be.

Yes Jesus loves us,  
Yes Jesus helps us,  
Yes Jesus shows us,  
the best way we can go.

## **SILENCE**

## **PRAYERS**

## **CONFESSION**

Leader: Outrageously impossible, unknowable God  
you came as Jesus to call us into a life of radical faith.

We hear Jesus saying,  
"Come, fast in the desert with me."

People: We discover that we prefer  
regular meals and comfortable beds.

Leader: We hear Jesus saying,  
"Deny yourself, carry your cross, and follow me,"

People: We would rather indulge our wants  
and ignore the needs of others.

Leader: We hear Jesus saying,  
"Repent, for the realm of God is near at hand."

People: We refuse to allow you  
to change our minds and hearts.

Leader: You challenge us to follow you  
onto the unruly sea of gospel living.

All: Forgive us when we are unwilling to take on  
the crazy mind of Christ.

#### ASSURANCE

Leader: The God who came to live among us  
knows our fears and our weaknesses,  
and forgives us with outrageously impossible love.

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:            Holy Source of foolish faith,  
by your covenant you have claimed us  
as your beloved children.  
We thank you for your foolish yet steadfast love  
which endures beyond our comprehension.

People:                We give thanks for Jesus, who by his life  
and death  
continually shows us the way to navigate  
this unruly sea of gospel living.

Leader 2:            We give thanks for the Holy Spirit,  
who teases, cajoles, nudges, and nurtures our faith  
so that we might take on the crazy mind of Christ.

All:                We give thanks for your Holy Church,  
a fragile earthen vessel of grace,  
through which we are continually saved.

## 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 he gave himself up, 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. The crackers  
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. Amen.

### SHARED REFLECTIONS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HYMN

### BENEDICTION

Leader: Go out into the world  
and take up the work of Jesus:

find the lost, heal the broken,  
feed the hungry, release the prisoner,  
rebuild the nations,  
bring peace among the people,  
no matter how crazy that seems.

And on our way,  
let us greet one another with signs of peace.

All:           Amen.