

# Lent 2001: Building An Altar of the Fragments

## Lent 2001: Building An Altar of the Fragments

Seekers Church

A Christian Community

*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

Lent 2001

## Building An Altar of the Fragments

### REFLECTION

Concerning your sacrifices and your burnt offering I commanded not your ancestors. What have I asked, and what have I sought of you but to fear me? To serve with joy and a good heart; behold to hearken is better than to sacrifice, and a broken heart than a whole offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

I will build an altar of the broken fragments of my heart, and will bow my spirit within me.

(from a Jewish Hymn of Unity, part of the daily morning prayer service)

## **PRELUDE**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One:                                    Let us worship the God who calls us!

Let us bring our sacrifices of praise!

Let us declare the wonders of God!

Community:    We come from the broken places of the world,  
gathering the shards of harried lives,  
bringing our offerings of tears and joy.

One:                                    We gather as the ever-broken,  
ever-risen Body of Christ,  
our lives poured out for the healing of the world,  
our lives made new in the promises of God.

All:                                     Let us worship the God who calls us.

Let us bring our sacrifices of praise.

Let us declare the wonders of God.



First Voice:                   The cracks in our fragile world  
grow wider every day,  
split by our greed and complacency.  
We come to you brokenhearted.

Second Voice:                We take as much as we can grab.  
Our idol is scarcity.  
We do not remember  
your promises of milk and honey.  
We come to you brokenhearted.

All:                               Those in need sit outside the door,  
unable to walk and with little to eat.  
We try not to look as we come and go.  
We come to you brokenhearted.

#### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### ASSURANCE

One:                               Here on the altar  
are the broken pieces of our heart, God.

We trust that you will knit them together  
to renew in us a right spirit.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

## **HYMN**

## **THE WORD**

First Lesson

Silence

Gospel Lesson

Sermon

Silent Reflection

## **OFFERING**

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

One:                            Let us build an altar  
from the fragments of these broken times;  
Let us cry out for those who have no voice;  
Let us work with what we have,  
to help bring healing, justice and mercy  
to those whose lives  
are filled with fear and suffering;  
and know that God is with us,  
even in the dark of doubt.  
Amen.