

# Recommitment 1999: Hungering for God

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SEEKERS CHURCH

A Christian Community

*In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour*

RECOMMITMENT 1999

HUNGERING FOR GOD

### SILENT REFLECTION

...The time has come for the Church to invite its people into a frightening journey into the mystery of God...The hunger for God is deep and pervasive in our society today. We need to recognize that this is not the same thing as hunger for the answers the church has traditionally given. Indeed, many seekers today do not act as if the Church will ever be a place where God can be fruitfully sought.

*Why Christianity Must Change or Die, John Shelby Spong, pg 21.*

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:                    God is everywhere,  
all in the Spirit and the Spirit in all.

People:                    Still, we seek the Holy One,  
the One who calls to us and for whom we yearn.

Leader:                    God is in our midst;  
where two or three are gathered there Christ is.

Community:            God is Christ  
and God is Spirit  
and God beyond our knowing,  
feeding the hungers we can not name.

## **INVOCATION**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SILENCE**

## LITANY

Leader:                    For forty years they struggled  
to find a place they could call home.

Voice 1:                    The sun and the stars have it easy.  
Their path is marked in the heavens.  
Wild geese know from birth the place  
that will shelter them from the cold.

Voice 2:                    They are called by a voice no one can hear,  
with a hunger no food can satisfy.  
They rest on the wind,  
wings spread in anticipation.

Leader:                    We are called by the same spirit.  
The map of promise is written on our hearts.

Community:                Feeling lost is often part of the process.  
We will not get there by being good.  
So tell me your despair and I'll tell you mine  
as we walk in love toward the pillar of fire.  
And so we share the journey to find our home in God.

## SILENCE

## PRAYERS

### COMMON CONFESSION

Leader:                    How can we believe –

Community:            In a world where doubt, despair and longing  
meet us every day,  
where cruelty and abuse are inside us and around us?

Leader:                    How do we walk with God –

Community:            When it is too easy to walk away, turn and run  
                                 away;  
to bathe ourselves in unconscious comfort?

Leader:                    How do we grow in Spirit –

Community:            When we wake up to sadness;  
when tears come like rain,  
when the night beckons like a cloak to hide in?

### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE

Leader: Knock and the door will be open.

Ask and you will receive.

Love and you will be loved in return.

Believe and God will bring you to the place

where doubt and faith walk hand in hand,

a journey that brings pain and joy,

dark and light, anger and love.

Seek and you will find life.

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### **HYMN**

### **THE WORD**

FIRST LESSON

SILENCE

GOSPEL LESSON

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

## OFFERING

## SHARED REFLECTIONS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN

## BENEDICTION

Leader:                    Embrace doubt.

Be confident in your loving.

Seek God in all things.

Share your heart's true journey.

munity of faith.

Amen.

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## LITURGY RESOURCES

**Litany:** Based on "Wild Geese," in *New and Selected Poems* by Mary Oliver, pg 110.

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## For Erica

Child of the water world

you have swum out of sight

in the depths of the pond. Only a month ago

flowers floated from your ashes

trailing you home again.

Silently the geese watched with us

honoring what we knew of you

reverent before the greater part we did not know.

Now a single pair keeps watch

while your ashes mix with other deaths

to feed new life aborning here.

It's Spring!

Sun-soaked, the bench is warm

to watch the first petals curl

from gnarled grey bark — the shield we need

to make it through the winter's months.

Churning leaves against bare trunks

announce the passage of a ghost

aswirl, its cape must pass thru solid things

and then as quick it's gone —

leaving just a tiny branch of bursting leaves —

thy rod to comfort me.

Marjory Zoet Bankson

April 1, 1995

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