

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
*A Church of the Saviour Community*

**Lent 2022**  
**Trusting God**

**GATHERING**

**ENTRANCE**

**REFLECTION**

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.

— Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, p. 206

**LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, open yourself to the possibilities of this present moment.

People: We come, not knowing what is going to happen next.

Leader: Come, open your senses to the newness all around us.

People: We come, not knowing where Jesus will lead us.

Leader: Come, open your hearts to the presence of the Holy One.

All: We come, trusting God's promise to be with us, always and everywhere.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYERS**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: God, our Creator, loves all creation, including us, and says we are "very good."

People: We believe we're not good enough; we don't trust in God's unconditional love.

Leader: God calls us to move forward with courage, faith, and hope.

People: We keep busy with the things we know, even though they will not last.

Leader: In our fear of future hardship,  
we close our hearts and minds to the possibilities offered here and now.

All: We stop short of following Jesus all the way to Jerusalem.

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE:

Leader: God forgives all our failings and imperfections  
and loves us just as we are.  
We can go forward trusting God's promise to be with us always.

People: 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

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*Seekers Church  
276 Carroll Street  
NW Washington DC, 20012*

**COMMUNION** *(on Sundays when there is no Communion, please skip down to the end of the next page for reflections, announcements, and benediction)*

#### 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 Maker of this challenging reality,  
we give you thanks  
for the trust you bring to life in us  
as we seek to be vessels of your healing.

People: We give you thanks  
for your presence among us as the Christ,  
who shows us how to watch for the opportunities  
growing in the challenges around us.

Leader 2: Holy Comforter of those in pain,  
we give you thanks for your Spirit,  
nurturing our faith and hope as we trust your presence.

All: We give you thanks for your Holy Church,  
a place where we can stand together  
as a sign of hope and healing in this fractured world.

#### 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 grain and grape,  
and work of human hands  
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**

As a sign of gathering in spirit while scattered, you may want to lift your bread and cup toward your camera.

Leader 1: The body of Christ, broken for all of us.  
Feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Leader 2: The cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world.  
Drink deeply of it.

### **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: Trusting in God, who is present  
in all of our challenges and opportunities,  
let us go forth into the world,  
greeting one another with signs of peace.

People: Amen.