

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

**Summer 2022**  
**Faith in Hard Times**

**GATHERING**

**ENTRANCE**

**REFLECTION**

Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the Alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight.

Joan Chittister, *Uncommon Gratitude*

**LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: O come, let us worship the Holy One, our rock and our fortress.

People: We come to worship, for the Holy One is our refuge.

Leader: O give thanks to the Holy One, whose steadfast love endures forever.

People: We give thanks to the One whose love assures us of growth in the darkness.

Leader: O come, with gratitude for the faith  
that is assurance of things hoped for, conviction of things not seen.

People: We come, giving thanks in the Spirit  
who searches us and knows us, whose steadfast love endures forever.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYERS**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: Faithful and loving God,  
you call us to be faithful even in hard times.

People: All we see is the darkness looming in front of us,  
and we want to escape to easier sunlit times.

Leader: Our ancestors in faith - Abraham, Rahab,  
John Lewis and Etty Hillesum - engaged the darkness,  
and they and the world around them were transformed.

People: We are afraid that we can never measure up  
to these giants of faith.

Leader: We are called to do our part,  
to take the next step,  
to engage the darkness,  
to grow and be transformed.

All: Help us, Holy One, to be grateful for the darkness,  
which helps us grow ever closer to you. Alleluia!

#### INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

##### ASSURANCE:

Leader: Our God, who is faithful and present even in the darkness,  
forgives us and helps us grow and be transformed.

All: Alleluia! 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**

### **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 all creation,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for nurturing our faith in these dark times.

People: Holy Wisdom, we give you thanks for Jesus,  
a steady, loving guide who shines the light of hope  
to help us walk together on the hidden path.

Leader 2: Holy Breath of life,  
we give you thanks for your loving Spirit,  
moving in, among, and all around us in the dark.

All: Holy faithful and loving God,  
we give you thanks for your Church,  
a fragile, earthen vessel where we deepen our roots together.

### **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: Let us remember  
that even as darkness surrounds us,  
it nourishes our growth  
and strengthens us to go forth,  
sharing signs of peace.

All: Amen.