

The United Church of Canada  
**St Francis Manoir & Grace Village  
& Manoir Stanstead**

A service for personal meditations at home  
May 2021

**Grounding Prayer**

(Take a deep breath, center yourself within the love of God)  
God, You are present, may I be transformed by this encounter.

**Opening Prayer:**

Eternal God, birther of all life, we marvel at the great gift of resurrection love. Your sacred name is echoed throughout the universe along with the jubilant cry of the resurrected Christ. On this Day your message of justice, forgiveness, and new life resounds in all spheres of life. May we mirror your grace and love, today and every day. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:**

Loving God, we often come to worship empty. We come tired, worn down, and seeking meaning. We come desperate to find our purpose in life. Sometimes we wonder if we really can touch lives with hope. We believe, so help us in our unbelief. We come to be filled, so we open ourselves to you.

(a time of silent reflection)

We become who you intend us to be, as your light shines within and through us. Guide us and form us. Holy Spirit, empower my efforts.

Amen.

**Prayer of Illumination:**

God of the ages, as we open the scriptures this day, surprise and challenge us with the Great Story. Help us to find in this story our story; through the way of others, show us our way. Assure us that the scriptures are as relevant today as when first written. Amen.

### **A Reading from the 1st Letter of John 4:7-12**

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. And God showed his love for us by sending his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.

We are sure that we live in union with God and that he lives in union with us, because he has given us his Spirit. And we have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If we declare that Jesus is the Son of God, we live in union with God and God lives in union with us. And we ourselves know and believe the love which God has for us.

God is love, and those who live in love live in union with God and God lives in union with them.

*The Living Word, I listen with my heart, my mind and my spirit.*

### **Personal Reflection:**

Think of someone who showed you love. How did this person show you that you are loved? Did their love for you change you? How does this love live in you today?

Now think of someone you love. How do you show this person that they are loved? Whisper a prayer for them, hoping that love will empower them to be who God made them to be.

Repeat the above a couple times, holding different people in your mind.

### **Prayers of the People:**

Compassionate God, I humbly come before you trusting in your deep love for all your children, and your deep love for me. I thank you for your gifts in my life (pause to reflect on your blessings). I am faced with challenges and struggles,

and so I ask for your courage and strength (pause and reflect on your concerns). I know that you hear me when I call, and I ask that you remind me that you are with me in the challenges and joys of living. Inspire me with your love and empower me with your hope. I pray using the words Jesus gave to his disciples;

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Blessing & Commissioning**

Return to the world, seeking to be instruments of God's music of love.

Go, seek God's goodness in everything and everyone.

Go, be Gods' goodness, in Christ's name. Amen.

### **Hymn: (VU359) He Came Singing Love**

He came singing Love and he lived singing love;  
he died, singing love He arose in silence.

For the love to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;  
he died, singing faith. He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;  
he died, singing hope. He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;  
he died, singing peace. He arose in silence.

For the peace to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

Prayers by:

OP: Laura Turnbull, Penticton UC, Penticton, BC, Gathering Lent 2020 (Year A), p.46.

PC: Gord Dunbar, Gathering L/E 2020 (Year B), pg.47.

PI: Beth W Johnston, Gathering L/E 2021 (Year B), p.47.

BC: George Allen, Chatham Ont. Gathering L/E 2020 (Year A), pg.50.