



*This service is designed for use by a small gathering of God's people outside of the assembly of the full community. It draws from the Eucharistic tradition, but it is not a sacramental meal. All Christians are called to bless, and this includes blessings of food and drink shared and the people gathered. The people assemble with greetings and conversation. Candles are lit by individuals as they arrive, accompanied by a moment of silent prayer. One person acts as the leader to keep the flow of the worship moving. Prayers and readings are divided among the rest of the group.*

*The leader opens with Call to Worship*

### **Call to Worship**

*One* Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. – Psalm 139:1-2

### **Opening Prayer**

*An appropriate prayer is offered to set the tone for worship. Collects from The Book of Common Prayer, especially the collect appointed for the day, are always appropriate.*

### **Music Offering**

*Please feel free to hum along! Singing in a mask is discouraged by health officials due to concerns for higher CO2 rebreathing when singing.*

### **The First Reading:**

#### **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

*One* "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## The Second Reading:

### John 1:43-51

*One* Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him,

he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

## Teaching

*In small groups of approximately three, remaining at appropriate physical distance, choose **three** questions to discuss for approximately twenty minutes.*

- How do you handle conflict?
- What is the difference between keeping the peace and making peace? Which do you think God is more concerned about? Why?
- Our culture focuses a lot on leadership. Conferences, books, and podcasts abound. This passage asks, "Are we good followers?" Whom are we

following: What are the characteristics of a good follower?

– Who invited you to “come and see”?

– What does it mean for you to follow Jesus?

– What does it mean to hear God’s call today?

### Prayer of Blessing

*Before leaving your small groups, standing and remaining at appropriate physical distance, spend approximately five minutes praying for one another in turn. Begin by asking what each person would like prayers for and then have the other members of the group lift them to God.*

### Prayers of the People

*The whole group gathers for prayer. Prayers may be formal and prepared ahead of time, or come forth from the group at the time of worship.*

*Prayers are always offered for:*

– *The Universal Church, its members, and its mission*

– *The Nation and all in authority*

– *The welfare of the world*

– *The concerns of the local community*

– *Those who suffer and those in any trouble*

– *Those who have died*

*This prayer from Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson, can be used if desired.*

*One* Sisters and brothers, you were bought with a price. So let us offer ourselves to God, praying: “God, you call us; *give us ears to listen.*”

Holy God, you call your Church to share the good news of your love: we pray especially this day for our parish. We ask that you inspire us to do the work you have called us to do. Create in us generous hearts and willing spirits.

*Silence.*

God, you call us;

*All* **Give us ears to listen.**

*One* Holy God, you call the nations to yourself: open our eyes to see the goodness, and respect the dignity, of every human being. May we recognize that your goodness has no boundary or limitation. *Silence.*

God, you call us;

*All* **Give us ears to listen.**

*One* Holy God, you call us to care for your creation: your works are wonderful. Open our eyes to the beauty of our world so that we might better tend to our planet. *The people are invited to add their*

*thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

God, you call us;

*All*    **Give us ears to listen.**

*One*    Holy God, you have made our bodies a temple for your Holy Spirit: we pray for all victims of physical and sexual abuse. Heal and glorify broken bodies that, being made whole by your love, they may glorify you. *Silence.*

God, you call us;

*All*    **Give us ears to listen.**

*One*    Holy God, you search us out and know us: comfort and heal the sick and sorrowful that they may know they are not alone. Keep them ever on your mind and in your thoughts. *The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.*

God, you call us;

*All*    **Give us ears to listen.**

*One*    Holy God, if we climb up to heaven, you are there; when we make the grave our bed, you are there also. Hold the dead in your heart forever and comfort the living with hope eternal.

*Silence.*

God, you call us;

*All*    **Give us ears to listen.**

## **Confession**

*One*    Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

*All*    **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*One*    Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*All*    **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours, now and for  
ever. Amen.**

### **Blessing of the Meal**

*This portion of the service follows the shape of the Last Supper, and therefore may sound familiar and much like the Eucharist. However the elements are not consecrated, they are blessed, something all Christians are called to do. In times of pandemic, each person brings their own bread and wine. It is the time of prayer together that is shared, not the food. Begin by having the person who will lead the prayer over the bread to invite each person to make ready the food they brought. When all are ready, the prayers are offered.*

*One* On the last night that Jesus gathered with his friends he took bread and he blessed it and shared it with his friends, for God who loves us, feeds us. As God's people ate manna in the wilderness and were satisfied, so we share this bread with Christ, and with one another. May it be for us bread from heaven, strength for our bodies, balm for our souls, and may it empower us to be Christ's body in this world. *Silence.*

*One* On the last night that Jesus gathered with his friends, he took wine

and he blessed it and shared it with them. God who made us delights in us, and gives us good gifts to delight our tongues, and give joy to our souls. As Jesus offered the Samaritan woman water that would not fail, so Jesus offers us the same. May this wine be for us the holy drink of heaven, and may quench the thirst of our souls.

*All* **Holy and life-giving God, we thank you for the bounty of your Creation laid before us. We ask you to bless it, that it may be to us a holy meal. We give thanks for all those who labored so that it might sustain us. Through it may you give us the strength to be your good stewards; to care and tend your creation, and to care especially for our siblings – all the people of this world. We ask these things by the grace of Jesus Christ and in power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*The gathered join in eating. As this requires removing mask, care must be taken to ensure proper physical distancing continues. Music may be appropriate.*

## **Music Offering During the Meal**

*Please feel free to hum along!*

## **Sending Blessing**

*One person offers a blessing on the group gathered as they are sent into the world to do the work God has given each to do.*

*All*    **Amen.**

*One*    Go in peace to love and serve the  
          Lord

*All*    **Amen.**

*This service includes the work of The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, The Rev. Josephine Robertson, All Saints Episcopal Church, Bellevue, WA and Renew Community House Church.*