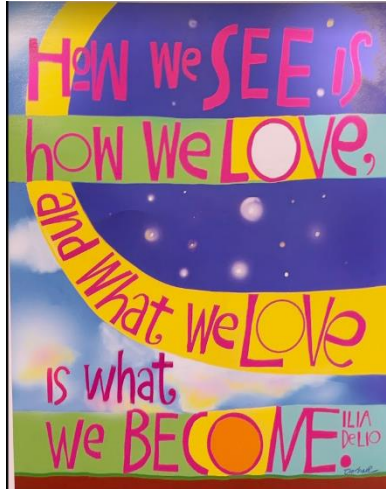




Community of St. Bridget
an inclusive catholic experience

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 27, 2024

Liturgist: Nancy Tondy



Ilia Delio

Suggestion: Please have a copy of the written liturgy and a piece of bread and cup of wine/grape juice so you can participate fully in this liturgy.

Come in. Come into this place that we make special by our very presence. Where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, and the compassionate is expected.

ALL: Together we make this a holy place with our every act of celebration.

With the flame of St. Bridget, we proclaim the transformative power of God. We give thanks that God's transforming love has been, is now, and will ever be at work within us and in all creation. Amen.

Opening Song: **Invocation** Cris Williamson on *Pray Tell*, Wolf Moon Records (2013).
https://youtu.be/-K_kdP-rVDY?si=Q1CuHZILA6vWd41i (no video)

When in dreaming Sacred comes
Let our eyes be open

Music frightens fear away
Let our ears be open

Knowledge of the blood abounds
Let our hearts be open

Hatred holds such fearful sway
Let our minds be open

Wisdom be with us this day
Let our souls be open

Living long where Love abides
Let our lives be open

Open our eyes, open our ears
Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our souls, open our lives
Let our lives be open

Let our eyes be open
Let our ears be open
Let our hearts be open
Let our minds be open

Open our eyes, open our ears
Open our hearts, open our minds
Open our souls, open our lives
Let our lives be open

Open our eyes, let our lives be open
Open our ears, let our lives be open
Open our hearts, let our lives be open
Open our minds, let our lives be open
Open our souls, let our lives be open
Open our lives, let our lives be open

Today, we celebrate the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our scriptures celebrate a gracious God who gathers us from the farthest reaches of the earth, bringing us back, weeping for joy. Even as gratitude is our first intuitive response, we want more. We want to see. And seeing, we, like the blind Bartimaeus, are compelled to follow The Way. Let us begin our journey in the Name of the Divine: Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Wisdom-Sophia. Amen.

Transformation Rite: *Prayers of the Cosmos* by Neil Douglas-Klotz (adapted)

God who pursues us, you have made us an original blessing. With our every breath, return us to a state of right relationship, where we are unburdened and in balance with all creation.

1. Forgive our hidden past, our secret shames. Teach us to consistently forgive what others may hide.

ALL: Let our eyes be open.

2. Untangle the knots within, so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to others and to you.

ALL: Let our hearts be open.

3. Absorb our frustrated hopes and dreams and help us to embrace the frustrated hopes and dreams of others.

ALL: Let our minds be open.

4. Show us how to repair what we have damaged and stolen from people, the planet, and our own sacred selves.

ALL: Let our souls be open.

Transforming our hearts in compassion and sharing your love with one another, we join with all creation in the cosmic dance of praise!

Gloria Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and the River's Voice *Worldmaking* © 2004.
https://youtu.be/HP8NkIp44nU?si=aY6vqjoX55ZG_reg&t=56 (no video; 0.55)

Gloria! Gloria! Highest Glory to You!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest Glory to You!

Maker, Spirit, Friend, you are Great Mystery.

Gloria! Gloria! Highest Glory to You!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest Glory to You!

Opening Prayer*

Revealer of Insight, never let us be satisfied to see only what is visible from our limited perspective. Grant us insatiable curiosity to understand what our neighbors can see from their different vantage points. Help us draw near to them, to walk with them, to see through their eyes, hear through their ears, and feel through their experience, so our shared horizons will be broadened. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*We now experience the Spirit of Our Living God as we listen to
the Scripture readings broken open and shared by all.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah:

Thus says God:

“Sing with joy, O people!
Announce the good news!
Share the good news with a great nation
that has suffered greatly.
Make your Alleluias heard!

Say: 'Liberate us, O God!
Bring home all who have survived.'

"Then, look and see!
I will bring them from the land of the north.
I will gather them from the farthest reaches of the earth.
Among them will be those who are blind,
those who cannot walk,
expectant mothers and women in labor.
A great throng will return!

"They will come weeping for joy.
They will pour out hope-filled prayers
as I bring them back.
I will lead them beside flowing streams
on a way that has been cleared.
They will not stumble.
I gave birth to them. They are my firstborn."

The inspired words of our ancient spiritual tradition. Amen.

Responsorial: Psalm 126:1-2; 3-4; 5-6

Cantor: *Turn our mourning into laughter!*

When God brought back Zion's captives, we lived in a dream.
Our mouths filled with laughter, and our lips with song. **R**

Great things God did for us! We were overjoyed! Bring back again, O God,
bring back all your people in captivity, like the streams return in the Negev. **R**

Those who sow in tears, sing as they reap. They went off weeping
but bearing the seed. They come back singing, bringing in sheaves. **R**

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
leaders and *all* who abide on the earth.
All young men and women alike,
people of all genders, old and young together. **R**

Cantor: Alleluias

Second Reading - Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel attributed to Mark:

Jesus, and a throng of followers on “the Way” to Jerusalem, came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with the parade of people, were leaving the city, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), who was blind, was sitting by the wayside begging.

When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Heir of David, have mercy on me!” Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet. He shouted all the more, “Heir of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So, they called to the blind man, “Come now! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing off his cloak, Bartimaeus jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. Bartimaeus replied, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately, Bartimaeus received his sight and followed Jesus along “the Way.”

The inspired words attributed to the evangelist, Mark. Amen.

Cantor: Alleluias

Third Reading: Excerpt from *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*
A reading from the writings of Richard Rohr:

Spirituality is about seeing. It’s not about earning or achieving. It’s about relationship rather than results or requirements. Once you see, the rest follows. You don’t need to push the river, because you are in it. The life is lived within us, and we learn how to say yes to that life. If we exist on a level where we can see how “everything belongs,” we can we trust the flow and trust the life, the life so large and deep and spacious that it even includes its opposite, death. We must do this, because it is the only life available to us.

The inspired words of Friar and Ecumenical Teacher, Richard Rohr. Amen.

Shared Homily: Nancy Tondy

Once again, we gather in incredibly challenging times, with savage wars in the background, the brutal aftermath of climate-change disaster, and the constant din of political discourse that’s gone from vitriolic to vulgar. Our collective pain is unrelenting. And in our first reading, Jeremiah is speaking to another group of people whose collective pain is unrelenting. The prophet proclaims a future

when the people will sing for joy, emphasizing that those who will return rejoicing include the most vulnerable, people with physical disabilities or who are pregnant or in labor. They, who are utterly dependent upon God, will be led “beside flowing streams on a way that has been cleared.”

Jeremiah specifically mentions the blind. Today, we know that the visually impaired can see in ways that the sighted cannot. Research shows this; history shows it. In 1933, Helen Keller, blind and deaf before the age of two, described how she encountered the miracles of nature while walking through the woods. How she felt the delicate symmetry of a leaf; the smooth skin of a silver birch; the velvety texture of a flower; the cool waters of a brook rushing through her open fingers.¹ Keller’s life accomplishments prove that her memory, language processing, and sensory motor function were advanced—well beyond the abilities of people with typical eyesight.

The scene in our Gospel includes throngs of followers along with the disciples. But of all these many characters, it is the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, who sees most clearly. He alone recognizes Jesus as the “Heir of David.” Above the objections of others, the intrepid Bartimaeus calls out to connect with Jesus. Bartimaeus, who is utterly dependent upon God, is willing to risk that Jesus can restore his physical sight. Yet, with his profound faith, *Bartimaeus already sees better than most.*

In last week’s Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples the same question we hear today, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they immediately attempt to secure their places of privilege on the right and on the left of Jesus. Bartimaeus has a different answer. “I want to see,” he says. This is the heart cry of people of faith: to see in the way that Jesus sees. To see beyond our privileges, our biases, our cultures of domination and resistance. When Jesus reaches out to Bartimaeus, his is bringing him to the center and inviting us to do the same.

If we believe that “Spirituality is about seeing” and “not about earning or achieving,” that it’s “about relationship rather than results or requirements,” then always, especially in our collective pain, let our prayer be this: *We want to see. Make us seekers and searchers of your Great Mystery, reaching out to one another to create the life Jeremiah describes, the life Jesus describes—a life where everyone belongs, where your people are gathered from the farthest reaches of the earth and return weeping for joy.*

¹ Keller, Helen. “Three Days to See,” as published in *The Atlantic*, January 1933.

I invite you to share the wisdom welling up in you today.

Holding these thoughts in the sacred space among us and strengthened by the support of one another, we now proclaim our affirmation of faith:

Affirmation of Faith***

5. We have faith
in one God, one Source of all life,
one Ground of the whole Earth,
who created all things good.

6. And we have faith
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear
God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.

7. And we have faith
in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and
compassionate lifestyle.
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.
So be it. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Knowing our God is faithful, generous, and abiding, let us bring to this Table our cares and concerns—for ourselves, our loved ones, and our world. Our response is: ***We awaken to your call.***

For whom and for what shall we pray?

Eternal Source of Life, help us discover how we can be most useful, for we long to see a world where there is joy, where it is safe to live, and where everyone belongs. Empower us to co-create this world as you intend it to be. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sign of Peace

As we prepare this sacred meal, we reaffirm that, just as Jesus was anointed, so is each of us. And so, we celebrate our Creator's fruitful love as we extend our blessing to one another with joy. May the peace that our brother Jesus offers be always with us!

Offertory (All raise bread and cup)

We place on our plate the harvest to be won by labor's love. And into the cup we pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the Earth's fruits.

Prayer Over the Gifts

ALL: O Gracious One, giver of the gifts we bring, receive them from your church gathered here today, affirming the sacrament of your Presence among us. Amen.

The Holy One is with us, abounding in Love!

1. Giving thanks to the Source of All Life, we open our hearts in the name of Jesus, who lives and loves, heals and empowers, through us.
2. We praise you, O God of wonder and life, as we celebrate Jesus' life and ministry, a witness to the life of compassion and love we are all called to live. We lift up our hearts with St. Francis and all the saints and angels:

O Holy One Richard Bruxvoort Colligan and the River's Voice © 2004 Worldmaking.net
<https://youtu.be/Dnq4Llj-rwI?si=OUwEEEmEJ6D1dQbm4> (no video)

O Holy One, we gather in Your presence.
O Living One, we welcome all to hope.

Refrain: You are our God (You are our God)
We are Your people (We are Your people)

O Holy One, the Covenant of history
O Living One, we live and move in You. **R**

3. Creator God, we see around us the work of your hands, the fruit of your wisdom and love. The unfolding story of creation witnesses unceasingly to your creative power. We, your creatures, often deviate from that wisdom, hindering your creative presence in our midst.
4. Sending among us Jesus, our Light and Hope, you birth afresh in our world the power of Sophia Wisdom, and in the gift of the Spirit, your creative goodness blooms anew, amid the variety and wonder of life.

ALL: Spirit of Life, all that exists is blessed and enlivened by your presence. May these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, and our very lives, be the nourishment we need to sustain us.

5. As a Christian people we celebrate the Open Table, proclaimed by Jesus our liberator and our friend, a Table of abundant life, inclusive love, and liberation, where all are welcome, and from which no one is to be excluded.

At this gathering, we take bread, as Jesus took bread, and we remember, as Jesus remembered, the constant presence of the Spirit of Life and Love. And Jesus offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise bread)**

ALL: *Take and eat, all of you. This is my Self, the Bread of Life which I give to strengthen you.*

Jesus then raised a cup of blessing, spoke the grace, and offers it to us now, saying: **(All raise cup)**

ALL: *Take and drink this Cup of Life, the Covenant made new again through my life in you. Whenever you remember me like this, I am among you.*

We give thanks for who we are in Christ:

ALL: Matter becomes conscious, the universe coming to reflect on itself, earthen vessels that hold a treasure, temple of God's Spirit, the Body of Christ.

(All raise bread and cup)

ALL: For it is through learning to live as Jesus lived,
And why he lived,
And for whom he lived,
That we awaken to your Spirit within,
Moving us to worship you truly,
Life-giving God,
At this time, and all time, and in all ways.

Cantor: Amen!

Communion Rite

We pray as these gifts are shared among us:

6. Loving God, you call us to live the Gospel of peace and justice.
We will live justly.

7. Loving God, you call us to be your presence in the world.
We will love tenderly.

1. Loving God, you call us to speak truth to power.
We will walk with integrity in your presence.

(Presider raises bread and cup)

This is the Bread and Cup of Life, through which we are nourished, and we nourish one another.

ALL: We receive this bread and fruit of the vine as the presence of Christ among us!

All are welcome to receive at our Tables of Friendship!

Communion Meditation: ***This is Our Path***, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan; 2021 (ASCAP). Licensed via OneLicense.net, CCLI and Worldmaking.net.

<https://youtu.be/aWw2uOPLF88?si=Ni8FCps4DTqRRdQC> (no video)

Refrain: This is our path, the path of Jesus
This is our way, the way of the Christ:
Fierce compassion and justice for all alike

Ten thousand names of the Holy
This is the one we know
Ten thousand paths of the faithful
This is the one we follow, follow. **R**

God bless the life of our neighbor—
anyone we're beside
Good work and words, our aroma
God's love alive in kindness, kindness. **R**

Christ is our home and our journey,
author and end of faith
Emptied into one communion
with all creation's heartbreak, heartbreak. **R**

Together we pray to God as Jesus did: (Adapted by Miriam Therese Winter)

- 2.** O Holy One, you are within, around and among us.
We celebrate your many names.
Your wisdom come; your will be done,
Unfolding from the depths within us.
- 3.** Each day you give us all that we need;
You remind us of our limits, and we let go.
You support us in our power, and we act with courage.
- 4.** For you are the dwelling place within us,

The empowerment around us,
And the celebration among us, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

Companion Who Walks With Us in Light and Darkness, help us join your cosmic plan of joy and peace for all, seeing ourselves and all our relations as equal beneficiaries of your boundless, merciful love. May we always do justice, love kindness, and, with unflagging sincerity, walk in humility with you, Living God. Amen.

Announcements: Eastern Standard Time begins Sunday, Nov. 3 (fall back 1 hr.)

Blessing – *Let us extend our hands to bless one another.*****

May you continually learn to see and may all your worry and anxiousness be transfigured.

5. May your inner eye
See through the surfaces
And glean the real presence
Of everything that meets you.

6. May your soul beautify
The desire of your eyes
That you might glimpse
The infinity that hides
In the simple sights
That seem worn
To your usual eyes. Amen.

7. We go our own ways but will not be separated, for we are held together by the Source of All That Is, clothed in the nature of Jesus our Companion, and reinforced by the strength of Spirit Sophia. Amen.

Closing Song: ***Be Our Vision Now***, Andra Moran, *Prayers from the Bridge*, © 2023.
https://youtu.be/PLM5OpPCYSY?si=RcL89G_PWTb-KYtl (no video)

Be our vision now.
In all that we do, let us see You.
Be our vision now.
In the shadow of night, let your presence be our light.

Be our wisdom now.
Filtering through our words and the things we do.

Be our wisdom now.
Give us power to choose the way that is right and true.

Refrain Here in this moment and forever, help us to love more. Amen.
Here in this moment together, help us to love more. Amen.

Be our loving now.
Heart of our hearts, center of who we are.
Be our loving now.
Honest and true, as we were first loved by you. **R**

Be our vision now.
In all that we do, let us see You.
Be our vision now.
In the shadow of night, let your presence be our light.

***Thank you for your courage to worship in a spirit of
equality and justice!***

***You are welcome to join us again—and to invite a friend—to support
this Community with your presence and prayer.***

- * Opening and Closing Prayers: Brian McLaren, Practices for Learning How to See Podcast, 2021.
- ** First & Second Reading, Psalm: *Comprehensive Catholic Lectionary*, published by Women's Ordination Conference. Third Reading: Rohr, Richard. *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer* (pp. 33-34). The Crossroad Publishing Company. Kindle Edition.
- *** Affirmation of Faith (Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlag-shaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003).
- **** Blessing: John O'Donohue, "For the Senses," *To Bless the Space Between Us* (2008).