

Meditative Worship for the New Year



January 2, 2022

Gathering

One: "Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light" - blessing by Jan Richardson

All: We continue the journey to Bethlehem, following the star. We seek and walk together, God with us! Emmanuel! We enter a new year together. May the good news and our journey shine forth! Praise be to our God!

Sharing of Our Innermost Lives with God

Let us share with God and pause to name all that we carry in our hearts

Kyrie: Worship and Praise, #36, "Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

As you sing, you are invited to simply place your open palm over your heart, as you deeply invite God into your life this morning.

Prayerful Reflection

Lighting of Prayer Candles



Scripture Readings, Reflections, Sung Responses

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Reflections: What season are you entering? What do you need to let go of and what do you feel led to pick up? What is suitable for you now in this time?

Matthew 25:31-46

Reflections: In what parts of your life are you hungry and thirsty? What practices might sustain you and how might you attend to and share with others?

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God who is never confined to our imagining, is never in bondage to our beliefs, and never held fast in our dwelling places. Our God is the mystery of divine and human bound together, of power and vulnerability, of crucifixion and resurrection. Our God is the wonder of truth and compassion, of liberation and responsibility, of eternal wisdom and costly grace. We celebrate God who leaps free of all our boundaries in love stretching out from horizon to horizon, epiphany to epiphany, and in mercy bending deep into fragile human hearts.... our hearts, our epiphanies, our horizons.

Kyrie: We are Holy, Holy, Holy. You are Holy, Holy, Holy. I am Holy, Holy, Holy. We are whole.

Time of Community Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Lord's Prayer from "Human Rites" by Ward and Wild:

Beloved, our Father and Mother, in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name, followed be your royal way, done be your will and rule, throughout the whole creation. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For your reign in the glory of the power that is love, Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Invitation and the Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Benediction

Within each of our hearts there is a most glorious light.
Go forth and bring its ray of hope to those in need of help in both body and spirit,
that they may find healing;
Go forth and fan the flames of passion to help heal our world;
Go forth and share your glorious light.

