A Time of Prayer and Reflection

Wednesday after Election Day
November 4, 2020  10 am

Please enter our virtual worship space in silence.
Prelude: Dona Nobis Pacem

Gathering Prayer

Leader: This morning...
I pray that the flame of God’s love may burn in
My heart and in the hearts of all I meet today.

I pray that no envy or malice,
No hatred or fear, may smother the flame.

I pray that indifference and apathy, contempt and pride,
May not pour cold water on the fire.

Instead, may the spark of God’s love
Light the love in my heart,
That it may burn brightly through the day.

People: May love burn brightly through the day.

And may I warm those that are lonely,
Whose hearts are cold and lifeless,
So that all may know the comfort of God’s love.

People: May all know the comfort of God’s love.

Scripture Reading

By his plan God stilled the deep
and planted islands in it.
Those who sail the sea tell of its dangers,
and we marvel at what we hear.
In it are strange and marvellous creatures,
all kinds of living things, and huge sea-monsters.
Because of him each of his messengers succeeds,  
and by his word all things hold together.

We could say more but could never say enough;  
let the final word be: ‘God is the all.’
Where can we find the strength to praise him?  
For he is greater than all his works.
Awesome is the Lord and very great,  
and marvellous is his power.
Glorify the Lord and exalt him as much as you can,  
for he surpasses even that.
When you exalt him, summon all your strength,  
and do not grow weary, for you cannot praise him enough.
Who has seen him and can describe him?  
Or who can extol him as he is?
Many things greater than these lie hidden,  
for I have seen but few of his works.
For the Lord has made all things,  
and to the godly he has given wisdom.

**Interlude:** Prelude in G major for solo cello  
*J.S. Bach*

**Poem:** A Prayer of Oscar Romero *

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.
Nothing we do is complete,  
which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church’s mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders;
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.

**Wondering Questions for Meditation**

**Silent Reflection**

*During the 5 minute silence, you are invited to use the time in any way that seems gracious to you. You might want to listen to the music, spend time with the image, or leave the screen for a moment. This time is yours to use as you feel called. Please return to the screen when you hear the chime.*
Music during Meditation: Spiegel im Spiegel

Arvo Part
Prayers for National Life

Leader: Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.

People: Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. Amen.

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anthem: Dona Nobis Pacem (from B-minor Mass) J.S. Bach
Closing Prayer

Leader: All shall be well, and all shall be well,
People: And all manner of things shall be well.

As you feel comfortable, join in a “body prayer” of mutual blessing.

*This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.