

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
*A Church of the Saviour Community*

**Easter 2023**  
**So That We May Be One**

**GATHERING**

**ENTRANCE**

**REFLECTION**

If one goes into one's own heart, one will find oneself in the heart of everyone else, and everyone else, as well as oneself, in the heart of Ultimate Mystery.

*From The Contemplative Outreach Newsletter, vol 25--June 2010 in The Thomas Keating Reader*

**LIGHTING THE ALTAR CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: The risen Christ, Ultimate Mystery of creation, is here,  
flowing in us, and around us, and through us.

People: God has come again as mystery:  
the One who lived and died on a cross lives again,  
a Spirit deep within, calling us to something new.

Leader: We may not understand, but we are not alone.  
The air is alive with hints of love emerging.

People: We come to pour our spirits into this vessel that is the church,  
so we can offer the good news of God's emerging love.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

**WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYERS**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: Jesus invites us to be witnesses  
to the kin-dom of God,  
where there is no partiality and  
all are made one.

People: We are burdened with a society  
that shows partiality towards the abled,  
rather than the disabled,  
towards the rich, rather than the poor.

Leader: Jesus invites us to experience,  
like the disciples on the road to Emmaus,  
our minds opened and our hearts burning within us.

People: We are inundated with words and ideas  
that confuse us and separate us from others  
and from the Ultimate Mystery.

Leader: Jesus invites us to journey inward  
and to rediscover the oneness we share  
with each other and all creation.

All: Forgive us, Holy One, for wandering away  
from your green pastures,  
for turning away from your  
invitation to oneness with you,  
each other, and all of creation.

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy One forgives and loves us,  
drawing us ever deeper inward,  
breaking through our barriers with love  
until we are made one.

All: Amen.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

## INTERCESSION AND PETITION

### COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today  
to claim our relationship with you.  
We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.

Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.

Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;  
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation  
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

## **HYMN**

### **THE WORD**

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

### **OFFERING**

*Whether you are here in person or attending on Zoom, offerings may be made by sending a check to the church or through PayPal by clicking on the Donate button on the Seekers website or at [PayPal.Me/SeekersChurch](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https://www.seekerschurch.org). Those in the sanctuary are welcome to place their offerings in the plate on the altar.*

### **COMMUNION**

#### **PREPARATION**

Leader 1: This is the table of the heavenly feast,  
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the table.  
Here we celebrate God's presence among us,  
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at once.

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,  
sinner and forgiven, we make one circle  
of knowing, believing, rejoicing, being,  
as God lights and rests among us.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader 1: Holy Maker of all that is,  
we are thankful for your presence,  
helping us to become one with you  
and with others.

People: We are grateful for the gift of Jesus,  
who showed us your way  
of being in the world  
and with one another.

Leader 2: With gratitude we feel  
the power of your Holy Spirit,  
nourishing and challenging us  
on our journeys.

People: We give thanks for your Holy Church,  
where we experience your presence  
with one another.

#### BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life,  
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.  
You who come to me shall never hunger;  
you who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night he gave himself up, Jesus took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,  
This is my body,  
broken for the healing of the world.  
Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,  
This is the cup of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for all.  
Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit  
that these gifts of grain and grape,  
and work of human hands  
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Unite us with Christ forever  
and bring us with the whole creation  
to your eternal realm.

#### SHARE THE ELEMENTS

As a sign of gathering in spirit while scattered, you may want to lift your bread and cup toward your camera.

Leader 1: The body of Christ, broken for all of us.  
Feed on Christ in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Leader 2: The cup of the new covenant, poured out for the healing of the world.  
Drink deeply of it.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,  
we give joyful thanks  
for your eternal love and healing presence  
in our celebration of bread and cup.  
Bless this Body of Christ

that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants,  
with each other and throughout the world. Amen.

### **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **HYMN**

### **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Now, with hearts joined in the Ultimate Mystery,  
let us go into our fragile, broken-hearted world,  
sharing the healing, hope, and love of Jesus.  
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

People: The risen Christ lives in our hearts!  
Alleluia, amen!