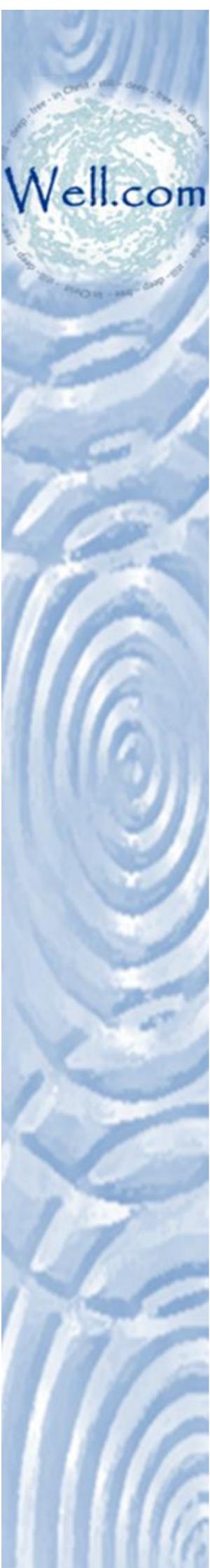


# SUNDAY LITURGY

May 2021





## *Welcome*

*You've joined us in a time of quiet for you and the Lord to enjoy together, in the company of others. You are in your own home and God is there with you. Any questions you hear during this time are intended for you to take into the quiet of your own heart.*

*We keep mikes on to maintain our connection with each other. However, at particular times you will be asked to mute. As in liturgy, our actions signal something of what God is doing with us. 'Let us mute' is God inviting us to listen carefully.*

Your responses are in **blue**

*In the Celtic Calendar, May 1 marks the beginning of summer and the season of fertility and luscious growth. Back in the day, farmers moved their cattle to fresh pastures, often passing their herds between two blazing fires as a sign of their desire for protection from diseases in those new fields.*

*These days, you don't have to own a herd of cattle or a couple of blazing bonfires to feel the desire to move to new pastures, to experience luscious growth, to be protected in new places.*

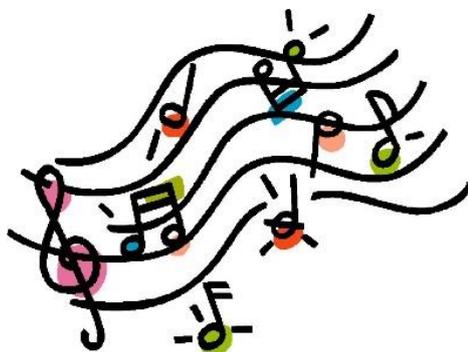
*This evening we pray with the lusciousness of God's world, seen all around us, not only in the May bushes lining the roads and fields, but also in the plants shooting up everywhere in our gardens and streets. Every weed, in every crack in the street evidence of the lavish generosity of our God. We pray also with the God who wants us – all of us - to keep on growing and to be luscious and fruitful, to enjoy growth, the beauty, the extravagance of it. And care for it. Eden here. Kingdom now.*

*... And that happens best when we stay close to him. Reflection on the Gospel will combine Jesus words in today's reading (John 15:1-8; vine and branches) with his words to Lazarus: calling him out to a new place, to restored and luscious life.*



**Let us mute**

## **OPENING MUSIC**



God beyond all Names  
Bernadette Farrell

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Your responses are in **blue**

*Let us unmute, let us speak.*

We join together in prayer  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen**

The Lord is here: **His spirit is with us**

*We become aware of the sky outside  
Stretching over each one,  
connecting us to each other and to God  
and of the life growing up around us  
A world of lavish and extravagant beauty  
reflecting God's generosity, God's beauty  
Pulsing with God's life.*

*(Pause)*



Creator God,  
present in all of your creation,  
each thing full of your life, your energy,  
Each part, a reminder us of your reckless generosity  
We are grateful

**Creator God, we thank you**

*We become aware of the Risen Jesus  
Sitting in the room with each one of us  
With you now. Smiling  
Happily spending all his time with you  
Because he enjoys your company  
(Pause)*

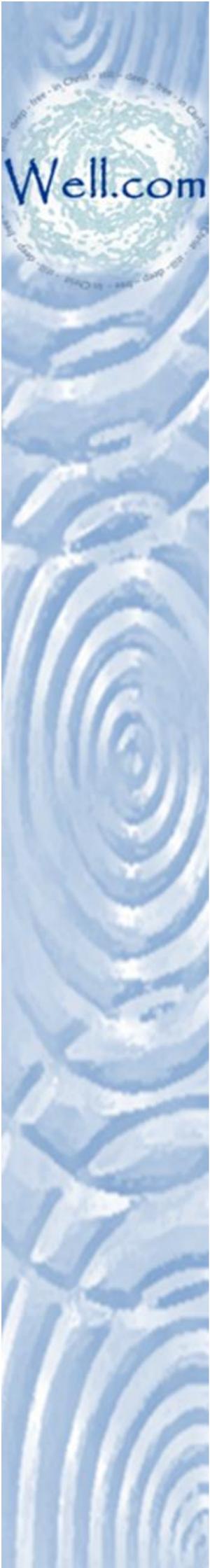
Son of God,  
who wanted to be with us so much  
that you came to live among us  
You are with us now, in our homes,  
Living in the middle of it all,  
Living in us, enjoying our company.  
We are grateful

**Son of God, we thank you**

*We notice our breath, we let it remind us of God's spirit  
In us. In you. Alive with the breath of God.  
(Pause)*

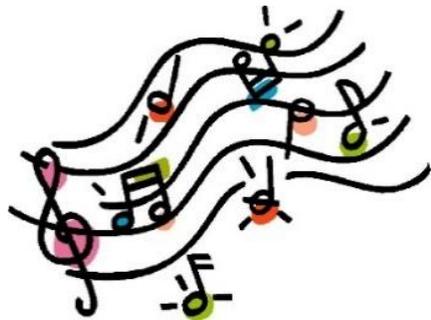
Spirit-Breath of God  
Filling us with God's life and God's love,  
Each one of us an experience  
of the wild and irrepressible goodness of God

**Spirit God, We thank you.**



The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us**

*Let us mute*



You, O Lord are in this place

Keith Duke

*Let us unmute, let us speak*

To the Lord who is each place, with each one of us we pray:

Creator God,

That we can glimpse you within creation

is a beautiful thought

but also tells us that you desire to be seen

to be found and known

Open our eyes, Lord

as we walk through this world

feel the wind and sunshine

see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes

(Prayer – John Birch)

We make this prayer through Christ out Lord

**AMEN**

## PRAYING WITH THE LAVISH GROWTH OF CREATION

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*Verses from Psalm 104 speak of the generosity of our creator God who shares his extravagant love in creation.*

<sup>10</sup>You make springs flow in the valleys,  
and rivers run between the hills.

<sup>11</sup>They provide water for the wild animals;  
there the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup>In the trees nearby, the birds make their nests and sing.

**The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made**

<sup>13</sup>From the sky you send rain on the hills,  
and the earth is filled with your blessings.

<sup>14</sup>You make grass grow for the cattle  
and plants for us to use, so that we can grow our crops

**The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!**

<sup>24</sup>O Lord, what a variety of things you have made!

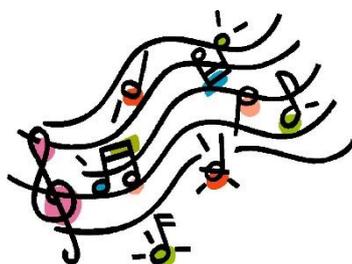
In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

**The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!**

<sup>25</sup>Here is the ocean, vast and wide,  
teeming with life of every kind,  
both large and small.

**The Lord takes pleasure in all he has made!**



*Psalm 104: Praise the Lord, all the earth*  
*Kiran Wimberley and the McGraths*

## PRAYING FOR HEALING

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*Life can massage our soft hearts out of shape, make them hard, stubborn and self-reliant. In pain, we forget God's unwavering generosity and irrepressible goodness. We turn to lesser things, good in themselves but not good for us because they do not lead to God. To heal is to remember who we are: generously cared for, loved beyond our wildest imaginings. Surrounded and filled by God*

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,

### **I am wanted by God**

*Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

### **I am loved by God**

*With the Lord I am safe and sound  
In his presence I am restored  
Always with me, he brings me to new life each day*

### **I am needed by God**

Lord, free us from things that do not lead to you,  
free us to love as you love.  
When we are wearied by hurt and pain,  
dogged by fear and insecurity,  
when we forget who you are and who we are,  
help us to know that we are wrapped in your arms  
help us to hear your sweet voice telling us  
that that we are your beloved disciples.

We make this prayer in your holy name, O Lord **AMEN**



## PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL

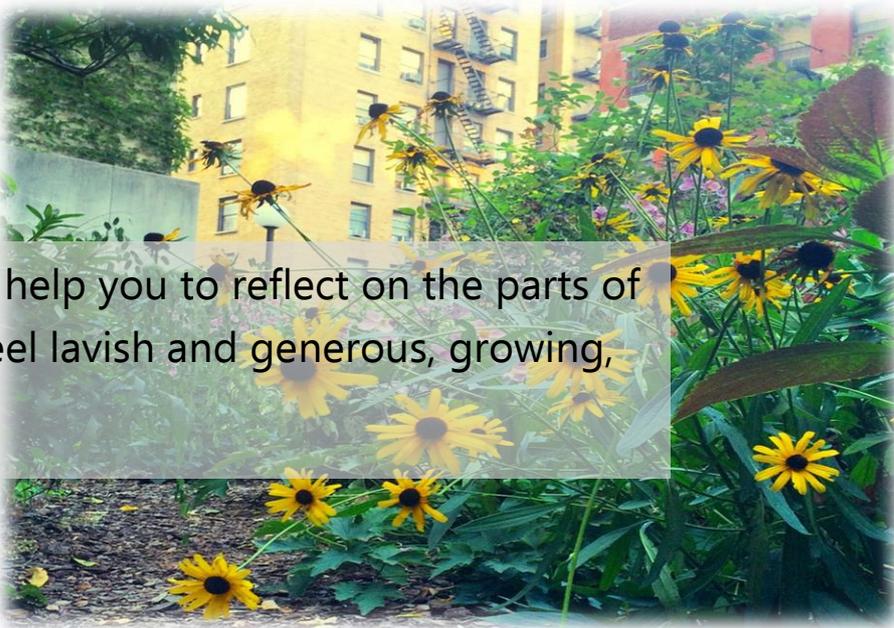
*We begin with Jesus' reminder of the growth that comes from being connected to him ... the vine ... the branches And we move with him to a different setting – with Lazarus – and to think about things in us that don't feel so alive and lavish. We hear his voice speak to those parts*

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us** *Let us mute*

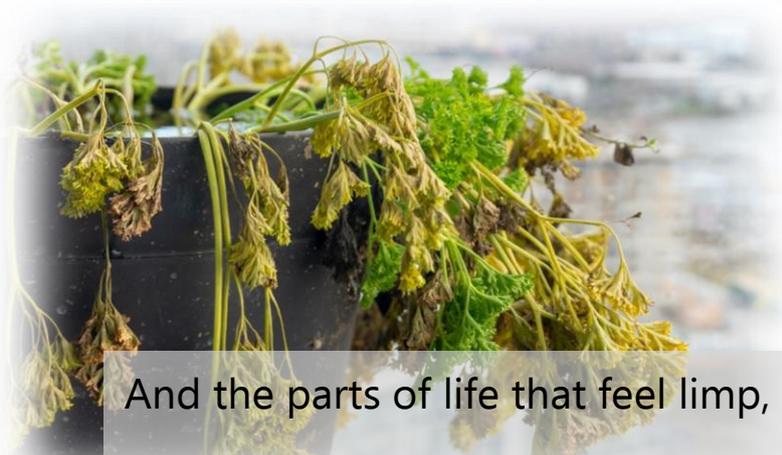
*John 15: 1-8* "I am the Vine and my Father is the vine grower. He cuts off the old wood - this won't produce grapes. He prunes back this year's new growth so it will yield even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

<sup>4</sup>"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

<sup>5-8</sup> "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be lavish, extravagant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.



The prayer will help you to reflect on the parts of your life that feel lavish and generous, growing, bearing fruit ...



And the parts of life that feel limp, dead ...  
... feeling that connection with the lavishness of God

Take away the stone ...

... if you believe, you will see the glory of God  
come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with  
strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said "Unbind him. Set him free."

That part of your life in the tomb with Lazarus, hearing the  
Beltaine call of Jesus. New places. Nothing forced. Simply  
listen to the words.

Aware of the places in life that seem lush. And those that  
seem dead. And God in it all. With you.

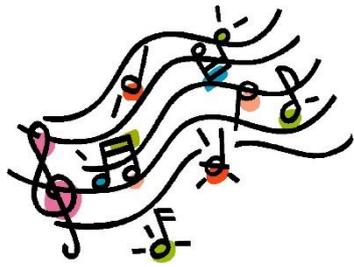


Our Father  
who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
They kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give u this day our daily bread  
Forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
For yours is the kingdom the power and the glory  
For ever and ever  
Amen

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

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Gentle Mother- Father God  
Deep within  
Holding us  
In these Covid times  
Alone. Together.  
In laughter and in loss  
In tears and tension  
Draw us into your stillness  
Open us to your quiet presence  
Wrap us in the safety of your love.



May the peace of the Father, be with  
you this night

**May we rest  
In the stillness of God  
May we find acceptance  
in the deep love of his Son  
and in our coming and our going  
may we experience  
the freedom of the Spirit  
day by day  
calling us  
to new life  
together  
in Christ**

We leave this time of prayer together asking that we live  
and love:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit AMEN**



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