

# *Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All*

*December 15, 2019*

*Sponsored by Dignity/New York*

Welcome to Come to the Table: Catholic Worship for All. We are drawn now into community where we believe that Jesus is present in the "breaking of the bread" — where no one is outcast and no one is without value and no one is excluded from the feast. God is found in the ordinary and every day. Today, let us seek God in a meal shared together.

## ***Call to Gather***

Welcome to this Advent Liturgy. We pray Marantha! Come Christ Jesus! We rejoice sing Gaudette! because we are half way through Advent. As we prepare for Christ's coming, how will we welcome Christ into our lives this Advent? We hold in our hearts all those immigrants throughout the world, especially those who have been forced to flee their homes, those who are seeking a place of safety and welcome, those in need.

## ***Litany of the Word***

***Bernadette Farrell***

## ***Candle Lighting***

***Gaudette! David Haas***

***Gaudete, Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine! Gaudete!***

## ***Opening Prayer***

All of us are the work of your hands. From the earth we were molded in Your image, fragile and dependent upon You. Although we are made perfect, we sometimes get it wrong, but you respond always with forgiveness. Out of love, you prepared us for the coming of Christ. You came into our lives, and talked about forgiving one another. You sat among those who were down and out, healing the sick and the lame. You shared our joys and sorrows, teaching us about loving our neighbor. Shape us in this season of Advent in readiness for the Word Made Flesh. Through the grace of hope we offer ourselves to help those in need. And we pray for the peace that only Christ can bring to the sadness in our world.

**All: Amen**

## ***First Reading***

***From Bread for the Journey, Henri J. Nouwen***

Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of the Spirit, and after the Ascension of Jesus we wait for his coming again in glory. We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God's footsteps.

Waiting for God is an active, alert—yes, joyful—waiting. As we wait we remember Jesus for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes.

## ***Second Reading***

***James 5:7-10***

Be patient, my sisters and brothers, until the appearance of Christ. See how the farmer awaits the precious yield of the soil, looking forward to it patiently while the soil receives the winter and the spring rains. You, too, must be patient. Steady your hearts, because the second coming is at hand. Do not grumble against one

another, my sisters and brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! To learn how to persevere patiently under hardship, sisters and brothers, take as your models the prophets who spoke in the name of the Most High.

***Gospel Reading***

***Blessed is She from Cry of Ramah Colleen Fulmer***

**Blessed is she, who believed that the promise made by our God would be fulfilled, would be fulfilled.**

***Shared Reflection***    *How do we waiting in patience and listen to the voice of God's promise?*

***Prayer of Petition***

*For what shall we pray?*

***The Greatest Prayer***

***An Adaptation by Jane Deren, Center of Concern***

**Our God who is in heaven and in all of us here on earth;** the hungry, the oppressed, the excluded. Holy is your name. **May your reign come and your will be done;** in our choice to struggle with the complexities of this world and to confront greed and the desire for power in ourselves, in our nation and in the global community.

**Give us this day our daily bread;** bread that we are called to share, bread that you have given us abundantly and that we must distribute fairly, ensuring security for all.

**Forgive us our trespasses;** times we have turned away from the struggles of other people and countries, times we have thought only of our own security.

**Lead us not into temptation;** the temptation to close our minds, ears, and eyes to the unfair global systems that create larger and larger gaps between the rich and the poor; the temptation to think it is too difficult to bring about more just alternatives.

**Deliver us from evil;** the evil of a world where violence happens in your name, where wealth for a few is more important than economic rights for all, where gates and barriers between people are so hard to bring down.

**May your reign come, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

***Eucharistic Prayer***

***Canon of Hospitality: Prayer Seeds Joyce Rupp***

As we gather around the table of friendship we come with profound thanksgiving for the countless times we have been welcomed by the Holy One dwelling in another person. Because of open minds and loving hearts we have been received with warmth and kindness. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

We are especially grateful for biblical compassionate persons renowned for their all-embracing hospitality. Their generous welcome inspires and encourages our own WELCOMING of those most in need of food, clothing, lodging and visitation. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

We remember the two on the road to Emmaus who were welcomed by the risen Christ. He drew them close with compassion and lifted their spirits with kindness. As they sat at table in the breaking of the bread their disappointed hearts began to heal. **All: Come in. We welcome you. God is here.**

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

**All: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.**

**Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said:

**All: “Drink this, all of you: This is the cup of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life - to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving. In loving and serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we love we are like God. - (Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

***Behold what you are, become what you receive. The Body of Christ.***

***Creator of the Stars of Night***

***Marty Haugen***

***Closing Prayer***

***Jan Novatka***

**ALL: May all I do each day be for the healing of the whole.  
May all I do each day mend our broken world.  
May all I do each day bring blessings on the earth.  
May all I do each day be for the good of all.  
All I do each day. Amen.**

***Extinguishing of candles***

***As Long As I Live***

***Psalm 146 David Haas***

***Praise the Lord, my heart, my whole life, give praise. Let me sing to God as long as I live.***

***Greeting of Peace***

“The dawn from on high shall break upon us and guide our feet into the way of peace.” Let us share a word of peace and hope with one another.

***Many people join us from their HouseChurch.***

*Westchester County, Mount Vernon, Hastings, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Manhattan, New Windsor, Buffalo, East Setauket; NY, Nashville, TN, Chicago, Chillicothe, IL, Silver Spring, MD, E Brookfield, Mansfield, Medford, Provincetown, Revere, MA, Austin, Plano, TX, San Francisco, CA, New Haven, CT, Bennington, VT, Washington, DC, Allentown, Philadelphia, PA, Hawaii, Burlington, KS, Fort Wayne, IN, Detroit, MI, Columbus, OH, Ireland, London, England, Peace Corps Volunteers joining us from Armenia, GNRC members in Manila, Philippines and all those who are praying with us right now! We hold them in our hearts.*

*For more information: ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org*

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