

## Opening Prayer

*O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Gathering Question

Group members take turns answering the gathering question, designed to help folks get to know each other better in classic ice-breaker fashion. Each one shares briefly before the group takes up the primary conversation for this particular time together.

*What was your favorite game to play as a child?*

*How did you feel about hide and seek?*

## Communal Reading: Psalm 27

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?*

*When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries,  
who stumbled and fell.*

*Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;*

*And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the Lord;*

*one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life;*

*To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \*  
and to seek him in his temple.*

*For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe  
in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.*

*Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.*

*Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation*

*with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.*

*Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.*

*You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.*

*Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
You have been my helper;*

*cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.*

*Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the Lord will sustain me.*

*Show me your way, O Lord; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.*

*Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.*

*What if I had not believed*

*that I should see the goodness of the Lord \*  
in the land of the living!*

*O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;*

*be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the Lord.*

## Sharing and Conversation

Sharing among the group unfolds organically, prompted by conversation starters for each session and guided by generous listening so that all members of the group have opportunity to participate.

*When have you hidden from God because of things you were doing or not doing?*

## Closing Prayer

Each gathering concludes with a time of prayer. Leadership roles are shared on a volunteer basis among group participants.

Drawn from Padraig O' Tuama's *Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2017).

*We reflect upon the day in a moment of silence.*

*One: For love shared,*

**All: We are grateful.**

*One: For provision and nurture,*

**All: We are grateful.**

*One: For kindness given,*

**All: We are grateful.**

*One: For sorrow we've caused,*

**All: We ask forgiveness.**

*One: For injustices ignored,*

**All: We ask forgiveness.**

*One: For encounters with God, in stranger and friend,*

**All: We bid Christ welcome.**

*One: For encounters missed,*

**All: We trust the Holy One who sees us even when we miss seeing Christ  
And ask for grace to see God in ways we anticipate and never expect.**

*One: We welcome the dark of night,*

**All: We make space for it; we mark our place within it.**

*One: We remember that you, Jesus of Nazareth,*

**All: lived through nights of consolation and desolation.**

*One: And you walked into the nights of people whom you met*

**All: Inviting them to justice and truth, love and life.**

*One: We welcome the night,*

**All: And we welcome you into all our nights.**

*One: We pray for those who work by night,*

**All: whose day is marked by moon, cloud, and stars,**

*One: And we pray for those whose nights are desolate,*

**All: That they may have the consolation of prayer, peaceful solitude, and community.**

**For a peaceful night, we pray.**

**For a hopeful day, we pray.**

**For a deeper generosity, we pray.**

**Amen.**