



A Ministry of Christ Episcopal Church
10 Henry St
Binghamton NY

Wednesday, January 15th
6:00 pm

<http://www.christchurch1810.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheHungryHeartBinghamton>

Welcome to The Hungry Heart!

Our mission is to gather a prayer community where spirituality merges with real life, where questioning is encouraged, and where all people are welcome as they are

We want this to be a place where people are not afraid to be themselves and not ashamed to be wherever they are on the spiritual journey.

Want people to bring all their life experiences and seek God with us.

We want to share thoughts, ideas and reflections with each other; ask each other questions; and search for answers together.

If you have any questions about Christ Episcopal Church or The Hungry Heart, please talk to Kay, Darla, John, Charlie, Maryse or Daniel.

We look forward to worshipping with you tonight!

Opening Prayer

May you let yourself be lost
from time to time
in the labyrinth of the Word.
May you, for a while,
empty yourself of all the words you know.
That Christ the living Word
will find you
and fill you
with his wisdom.
That he will write himself anew
across the pages of your life.¹

Let us pray.

Lord, teach us to silence our own hearts and minds that we may find your wisdom in the depths of our being. Amen.

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-19
The Common English Bible

12 Wisdom is bright and unfading. She readily appears to those who love her. She's found by those who keep seeking after her. **13** She makes herself known even in advance to those who desire her with all their hearts. **14** Someone who awakens before dawn to look for her will find her already sitting at the door. **15** Taking wisdom to heart is the way to bring your thinking to maturity. The one who can't sleep at night because he's consumed with thinking about her will soon be free from worry. **16** She herself goes about looking for those who are worthy of her. She graciously makes herself known to them as they travel. She comes to them in each of the ideas that they think. **17** The real beginning of wisdom is to desire instruction with all your heart. **18** Love for instruction expresses itself in careful reflection. If you love Wisdom, you will keep her laws. If you are attentive to her laws, you can be assured that you will live forever. **19** If you live forever, you will be near to God.

Response to the Word
Human Trafficking Awareness Month and what we can to help

Prayers of the People

Let us pause now, to let our love of others grow and spread out to all the world.

Let us remember the ones who are hungry.

Teach us how to share, O God.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us remember the ones who have no home.

Let us welcome them.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us remember those who don't have proper clothes to wear.

Let us give from our own abundance.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us remember those who are lonely, or grieving.

Let us reach out in friendship.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us remember those who are afraid and those in pain.

May we give our tenderness and our compassion.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us remember those who have lost their freedom to others.

Let us bring them freedom and equality.

Pause for candle lighting

Let us pray for ourselves as we go about our daily lives.

Fill us with the gentleness and strength of your Spirit.

Pause for candle lighting

We each have our own prayers to offer God; let our prayers be like lights in the darkness.

Individuals may come up to light a candle, with or without spoken prayer. ²

Concluding prayer for prayers of the people:

Let us give all our hopes and concerns to God, both those spoken out loud and those written on our hearts, praying:

**Loving Creator,
we honor you,
and we honor all that you have made.
Renew the whole world
in the image of your love.
Give us what we need for today,
and a hunger to see the whole world fed.
Strengthen us for what lies ahead;
heal us from the hurts of the past;
give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
For your love is the only power,
the only home, the only honor we need,
in this world and in the world to come.
Amen.³**

Prayer for Healing

Together, let us confess our need for God's healing in our lives, and our desire to receive it:

**Dear God: we often think our deepest fear is that we are inadequate.
But our deepest fear may be that we are powerful beyond measure.
Remind us, Lord, that we were born to manifest the Glory of God within us.
Remind us, Lord, that it's not just in some of us: it's in everyone.
Remind us, Lord, that by liberating ourselves from our own fear, our presence
automatically liberates others.⁴ Amen.**

Know that those who rely on God's grace cannot be defeated. God loves us more than can be imagined—in that love, we find peace. Amen.⁵

Closing Prayer

Let us pray:

**You, God, are our hope and strength;
in you we take refuge.
Keep us close to you,
that we might never stray from your side,
even as we seek to live and love
and work and play
in a world that is hurting
and hoping for your healing.
Be our comfort, Lord,
so that we might be your comfort to those around us. Amen.⁶**

Blessing and Dismissal

Wisdom is brilliant, she never fades.
By those who love her, she is easily seen;
by those who seek her, she is readily found.
She is breath of God's power,
an image of God's goodness,
the eternal light and mirror of God's glory.

Now let Wisdom do all things, renew all things,
And pass into holy souls everywhere,
to make them friends of God.⁷ Amen.

Go in peace and may God's blessing be with you always.

References:

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- ¹ Jan Richardson, *In the Sanctuary of Women* (Upper Room Books, Nashville), 80.
- ² Annie Heppenstall, *Leaderless Eucharist*, in *Wild Goose Chase: Exploring the Spirituality of Everyday Life*. (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications).
- ³ Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer, Sarah Dylan Breuer
- ⁴ adapted from the 1994 Inaugural speech of Nelson Mandela, President, Republic of South Africa
- ⁵ Jean Helmer, "Assurance of grace" in *Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship*, eds. Maren C Tirabassi and Maria I Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press), 117.
- ⁶ Sojourners, Verse & Voice, 3.04.10
- ⁷ Wisdom Blessing, St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church