

Corpus Christi Prayer Service 2020

Gathering Song*

At the Table of the World by Carl Johengen
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vaWBXaiWJY>)



1. At the ta-ble of the world, some have plen-ty, some have none.
2. At the ta-ble of the world, some have hon-or, some have scorn.
3. Set the ta-ble of our God in the Church and in the world,



1. At the ta - ble of our God, all are plen - ti - ful-ly fed.
2. At the ta - ble of our God, all are wel-comed and ac-claimed.
3. Till the chil-dren, fed and loved, taste and see that life is good.



Blow a-mong us, Spir - it of God, _____ fill us with your



cour-age and care! _____ Hur-ri-cane and Breath,



take us on a jour-ney of love! _____

Brian Wren
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Carl Johengen
Music © 1993, WLP

Greeting

Let us begin with the sign of our faith.
In the name of God, our mother and father,
and of Jesus, our brother and healer,
and of the Holy Spirit, our wisdom and guide.

Reading “The Mass on the World” from *Hymn of the Universe* by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Since once again...I have neither bread, nor wine, nor altar,
I will raise myself beyond these symbols,
up to the pure majesty of the Real itself;
I, your priest, will make the whole earth my altar
and on it will offer you all the labours and sufferings of the world.
Over every living thing which is to spring up,
to grow, to flower, to ripen during this day,
say again the words: “This is my Body.”
And over every death-force which waits in readiness to corrode, to wither,
to cut down, speak again your commanding words
which express the supreme mystery of faith: “This is my Blood.”

Reflection

Living in Isolation by Timothy Radcliffe

According to Mark and Matthew’s gospels, Jesus’ last words were: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” In that moment Jesus embraced more than just our deaths. He made his very own the loneliness that we all endure sometimes and that tens of millions live today.

On the night before Jesus died, that isolation was already palpable. He gathered his closest friends around him for a last supper. One of them had already sold him to the people who sought his life; Peter, his Rock, was about to deny he even knew him, and most of the others would take to their heels. In this most chilling moment, he did something utterly startling, taking the bread and wine, and saying “this is my body and blood, given for you.” When the community was falling apart and everyone faced the future alone, he made the promise of a new communion, which would be stronger than betrayal and cowardice and which nothing could destroy, even death. When the churches are shut and public worship ceases for a while, that promise still holds and the gift is still given.

So, yes, this awful virus may cut us off from each other physically, and that is a profound deprivation. But Christians believe that all our loneliness is embraced in a communion that pierces through every barricade. The risen Christ comes through the locked door behind which the disciples had placed themselves in self-isolation and lifts their fear and loneliness.

Even if we cannot get to the Eucharist, we can still enact symbols of communion. What are the gestures that we can make that put us in touch with those whom we cannot touch? Small gestures can speak of profound belonging.

Every Eucharist recalls what Jesus did in the face of death, defying its threat of ultimate isolation. Even when I cannot get out to join the community in prayer, God remains present, as St. Augustine wrote, “in my deepest interiority.” However lonely I feel, I am not alone, for at the core of my very being is Another.

(<https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/living-isolation>)

Quiet Reflection

... the whole earth is my altar ...

... the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love ...

... the Eucharist embraces and penetrates all creation ...

- * What are the gestures that we can make that put us in touch with those whom we cannot touch?
- * Where are you experiencing symbols of communion during the pandemic?
- * How are you offering to God all the labours and sufferings of the world?

Response

Leader: It is in the Eucharist that all that has been created finds its greatest exaltation.

All: *Christ, in the culmination of the mystery of the Incarnation, chose to reach our intimate depths through a fragment of matter.*

Leader: God comes not from above, but from within, God comes that we might find God's self in this world of ours.

All: *In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life.*

Leader: Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God.

All: *Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: “Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world.”*

Leader: The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation.

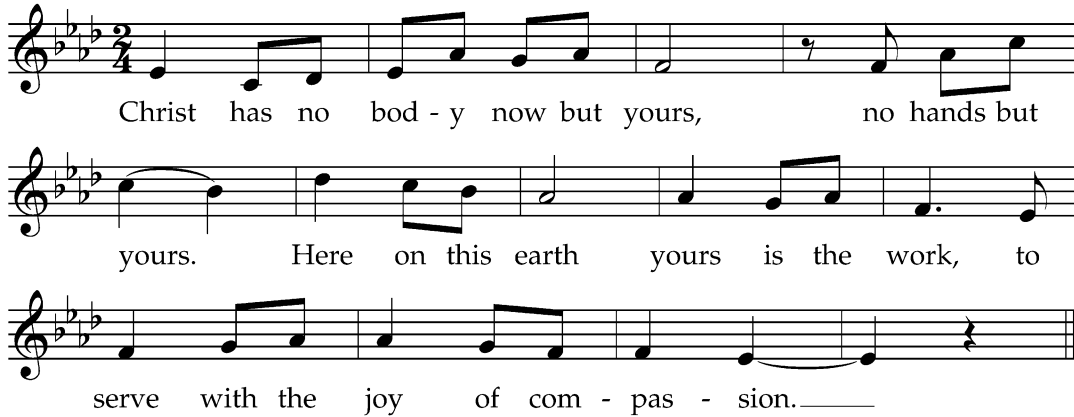
All: *The world which came forth from God's hands returns to God in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, “creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator”. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.*

(Laudato Si, #236)

Sending Hymn*

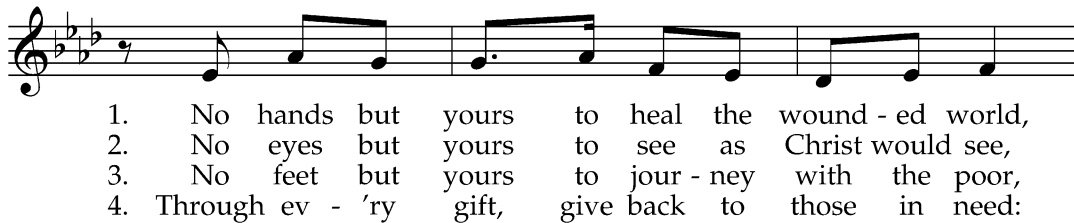
Christ Has No Body Now But Yours by Steven C. Warner (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c2S6cVb0wE>)

REFRAIN



Christ has no bod - y now but yours, no hands but
yours. Here on this earth yours is the work, to
serve with the joy of com - pas - sion. _____

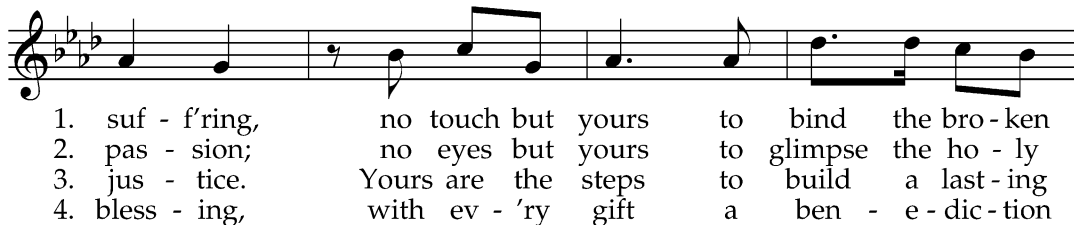
VERSES



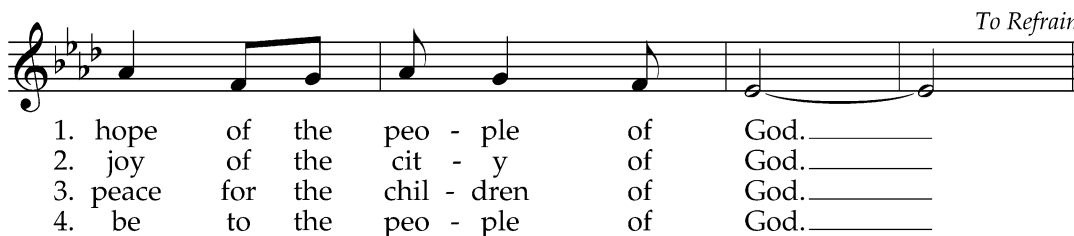
1. No hands but yours to heal the wound - ed world,
2. No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
3. No feet but yours to jour - ney with the poor,
4. Through ev - 'ry gift, give back to those in need:



1. no hands but yours to soothe all its
2. to find the lost, to gaze with com -
3. to walk this world with mer - cy and
4. As Christ has blessed, so now be his



1. suf - f'ring, no touch but yours to bind the bro - ken
2. pas - sion; no eyes but yours to glimpse the ho - ly
3. jus - tice. Yours are the steps to build a last - ing
4. bless - ing, with ev - 'ry gift a ben - e - dic - tion



To Refrain
1. hope of the peo - ple of God. _____
2. joy of the cit - y of God. _____
3. peace for the chil - dren of God. _____
4. be to the peo - ple of God. _____

St. Teresa of Ávila, 1515–1582

Adapt. by Steven C. Warner

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Steven C. Warner

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**If you are unfamiliar with the music selection, please feel free to substitute the song with a Eucharist hymn that you are more familiar with.*