

Pacific InterChristian Community
Community Worship
2014 Epiphany Season

Note: Italicized text describes what happens. It is not intended to be read aloud during the service.

We Gather

Music

Collect

(A member of the community lights the candle.)

One: Radiant God, all nations are drawn to your light.

All: All people proclaim your praise.

One: You befriend the forsaken and the lost.

All: You are the help of the oppressed for you have come to us in Jesus Christ.

One: We rejoice in your great love for the world

All And we praise you, together with people of every nation.

Glory be to you, O God!

Amen.

--Ruth Duck, alt.

We Reflect

Music/chant leading into the Meditation

Meditation

(15 minute silent meditation)

Music/chant after the Meditation

Assurance

One: God's love and the Spirit's life are constant,
yet human beings are imperfect.
Sometimes we feel lost;
sometimes we struggle with uncertainty.
We may not know what we need or how to ask for it.
We may not know how to give or receive help.
At times, we may know the path we should take
yet fail to follow it.

Let us remember that God is
the source of compassion.

In all of life's struggles,
God knows us, loves us, forgives us and welcomes us home.
God *is* love.
We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God.

Lectio divina

(While a passage from the Bible is read, we listen for words, images and associations that the text triggers for us. After a time of silence, the passage is read again. Everyone is then invited to share their reflections on the text if they choose to do so. We conclude with a final reading of the text.)

Music

We Offer

Prayers of Thanksgiving

One: Let us name aloud the joys and celebrations of our lives.

(Everyone is invited to name spontaneously events, circumstances, people and things for which they give thanks.)

One: God of love,
even when we walk in darkness, we can see your light.
You are the stars that guide us
and the Good News we hear
inside us and all around us.
We give thanks
that you are light and life,
wonder and joy,
hope and strength,
love and peace.
We thank you for the miracle of life
and the fragile beauty of this world.
We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
for this community
and for the loving care which surrounds us.
We thank you for Jesus in whose life
we find your Way of hope, peace and reconciliation.

All: Amen.

Music

Prayers of Intercession

(The prayers of the people are offered by a member of the community following which everyone is invited to light a candle and offer a prayer in silence or aloud.)

Music (response to the Prayers)

Body Prayer

(this body prayer uses American Sign Language)

One: God, here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

All: (repeat)

The Peace

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

All share the peace.

Offering

One: The offering will now be received.

Music

We Celebrate

The Great Thanksgiving

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: We give our thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks and praise, God of life,
ruler of all that is and all that ever shall be,
for in this Epiphany season,
in the birth of Jesus and in his adult life,
we see you become human, like us,
so that we might learn to be holy, like you.

Two: In Jesus, your child,
you bring light to the world,
hope in the midst of darkness,
and joyful celebration to everyone:

a new sign of love and peace for the world.

Three: Even today, he cares for the poor.
He feeds the hungry.
He heals the sick.
He lives among the poorest and least of us,
teaching us of our poverty and of your wealth.

Four: When we did not recognize him,
and did not understand what he taught us,
he loved us still.
He overcame our ignorance and cruelty
with compassion and forgiveness.
And so, with all of earth and heaven, we sing:

All: Holy, holy, holy God...

One: On the night before he died,
at supper with his friends,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it and gave it to them,
saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you."

(A member of the community breaks the bread, saying, "The bread of life.")

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine,
said the blessing, gave it to his friends,
saying, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood, poured out for you.
Whenever you gather,
do this in memory of me."

(A member of the community pours the wine, saying, "The cup of blessing.")

God of life,
with this bread and wine,
we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus,
and we offer ourselves to you in him.
Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts,
and make them holy,
so that we, your people,
being fed by holy things,
may take light and hope,
love and peace, into the world.

The Lord's Prayer

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ
in the power of the Spirit, we pray

<<a musical setting of the Lord's Prayer>>

Communion

One: Friends, here is the mystery of ourselves
laid out before us.
Behold what you are.
Become what you see:
The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Music

Gloria

(this prayer uses American Sign Language)

**All: Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God,
from generation to generation
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever**

Amen.

Commissioning

One: We have sung and prayed,
we have been fed and we are loved.
The light that has come to us remains within each of us.
Let us go out and take this light to the world.

All: Amen.

Music

Postlude