**Give us This Day/Called to be a light in the Darkness**

**January 2020**

**Welcome: Joe**

Good evening and welcome to our prayer.

We pray the “Our Father” so often and we hear the words:

 *Give us this day our daily bread*

And so we gather this night to reflect on and to pray for *what we need* ***this*** *day*…

We are living in a time of increased incidents of hatred, violence, and prejudice,

 We come together to remember,

that as followers of Christ,

 we are **each** called to be a light in the darkness.

We recognize that there is darkness that is present within:

 ~Our world

 ~Our country

 ~Our parish

 ~Our families

 ~And ourselves

We come together to pray for the courage to pierce that darkness with the light of our goodness, our compassion, our pursuit of justice for all people.

 We come to this sacred space

 to recall both the blessings and burdens of life…gaining strength through one another and the guidance of Christ, the light of the world.

Please join in singing **#160** in the Breaking Bread

songbook…**Christ, Be Our Light---#160 ---verses 1, 3, 5** please stand.

**Scripture: Jeannette**

**A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew**

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

And so it is with you---your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify God in heaven

 **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Song: Trish Scalese**

**Please join in singing: #589—I want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**Reading: Jeannette**

**The following is taken from the writings of Pope Francis**

God loves us; he so loves us that he gave us his Son to be our brother, to be light in our darkness. When Jesus is born, he comes like a small light flickering in the cold and darkness of the night. That Child, born of the Virgin Mary, is the Word of God made flesh … There is darkness in human hearts, yet the light of Christ is greater still, ---the light of Christ is greater than the darkness of broken family relationships or the suffering endured by people throughout the world.

Because he is faithful, God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. However, in our own personal history, there are moments of both light and darkness.

If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us and around us.

Today, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be people who bring hope and light to others. To protect creation, to protect every person, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope and the light of Christ to our world.

**PAUSE for about 20 seconds before you begin reading the part in red below.**

**We will now enter into a time of reflection.**

**PAUSE**

**Take time to reflect on the readings and the questions on your prayer sheet.**

**PAUSE**

**How are you being called to be a light in the darkness within our world today?**

**PAUSE**

**Intercessions: Joe**

**Sung response:**

**[Trish will sing it once and then have congregation sing it twice. Soft music will continue to play as intercessions are read.]**

We entrust to Christ, the light of the world, these prayers for the many places and people in need of God’s care:

**We remember:**

 ~Those places throughout our world struggling in the aftermath of natural disasters, especially the wildfires in Australia and the earthquakes in Puerto Rico

 ~The people in China, who have died from the Coronavirus. We pray also for those working on trying to stop the spread of the virus.

 ~Yesterday’s observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day. We pray for an end to the increase of antisemitism bigotry and attacks within our country.

**Sung response 2x**

 **We pray for:**

 **~**An end to the violence and unrest in Hong Kong, Haiti, Afghanistan, Iran, Palestine, Venezuela, and Syria.

 ~An end to the increasing threats of war over the past few months

 ~Assistance for refugees, immigrants, and those striving for a better life throughout the world and in particular, those suffering at our Southern Border in the camps in Matamoros, Mexico

 ~Those caught in the cycle of addiction and so many young people struggling with depression, the effects of bullying and thought of suicide.

**Sung response 2x**

**We entrust to God’s guidance:**

~Our president and congress, especially during the impeachment trial

~ All world leaders

 ~All candidates running for office

 ~The care of our earth and all its resources

 ~Those who serve in the military, especially those who have been killed,

 those who are injured, and we pray for their families as well.

 ~Those who have suffered from abuse of any kind.

 ~Those who are poor, sick, lonely, or burdened by life

 ~Those who are caregivers

 ~Those who have died

 ~Those prayers we hold within the silence of our hearts

**Sung response 2x**

**Please stand**

**Let us pray together:**

[SLOWLY]

**Our Father….**

**Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ’s peace.**

 **Trish will lead the final part with candles**

**Give us This Day**

**Welcome: Joe**

**Song: (Trish)**

**Scripture: Jeannette**

**Song: (Trish)**

**Reading: Jeannette**

**Time for Meditation: (Trish)**

**Intercessions: Joe**

**Closing: Joe**

**Song: (Trish)**

# ***Give Us This Day***

January 2020

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**Time of Meditation**

*We come together to pray for the courage to pierce the darkness with the light of our goodness, our compassion, and our pursuit of justice for all people.*

*How are you being called in your corner of the world to be a light in the darkness?*

*Who are the people in your life who show you the light of Christ?*

*Think of a person in your life who needs Christ’s light to heal them.*

*Ask Christ to surround them with love.*

**Sung Response to the Intercessions**

O God, Hear Us; Hear Our Prayer.

**Closing**

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.

Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet.

love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

Light before us, light behind us, light under our feet.

Light within us, light over us, let all around us be light.

Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.

Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.