

RE Congress
7th October 2011

Friday Evening – Gathering/Opening Liturgy

*Chairs are in as circular a way as possible.....there are aisles for people to come in and out.....
The space is set up with the largest lantern lit and people gather in at their own time.....*

Part I - Gathering

Lights are muted.....lanterns are placed around the centre.....one lantern is lit...

Congress Bell is placed in the corner of the room....it is tolling.....slowly.....the pace of the liturgy is slow and deliberative.....

3 voices call out in the darkness from different sides of the room

Voice 1: Come you who are weary...

Voice 2: Come you who have hope...

Voice 3: Come you who are forlorn....

Voice 1: Come you who seek nourishment...

Voice 3: Come from the north...

Voice 2: Come from the south...

Voice 1: Come from the east and west...

Voice 2: Come with your openness...

Voice 3: Come with your hunger..

Voice 1: Come with Good News...

Voice 2: Come with empty hands...

Leader: Come, come, come and let us share our Good News....
come and be nourished in this gathering place.....

*The 3 readers[Voice 1, 2 and 3]come forward
and light one lantern each from the large candle*

Gathering Hymn *Christ be our light – Bernadette Farrell*

On Slide

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Lights go half way up....

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

Leader: We gather with friend and stranger,
we gather in hunger and thirst,
we gather to be nourished
in the name of the Father our creator,
the Son our brother and redeemer
and the Spirit our advocate.

All: Amen

Opening Prayer

Leader: God our Creator,
your Son Jesus sent his disciples
to bring your Word to the ends of the earth.
Pour out your Spirit,
on us gathered here,
His disciples in this time and place,
so that we too may go forth to bring your Word to your people.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Part II - Liturgy of the Word - Scripture Readings

All sit.....Humming of the tune of Let your hearts seek and listen

Lights go up full

1. From the book of Genesis

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.

Chanting.....

On Slide

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

2. From the book of Exodus

Moses looked; there was the bush blazing, but the bush was not being burnt up. Moses said, 'I must go across and see this strange sight, and why the bush is not being burnt up.' When Yahweh saw him going across to look, God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

Chanting.....

On Slide

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

3. From the prophet Isaiah

Oh come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Chanting.....

On Slide

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

4. From the book of Hosea

But look, I am going to seduce her and lead her into the desert and speak to her heart. There I shall give her back her vineyards, and make the Vale of Achor a gateway of hope. There she will respond as when she was young, as on the day when she came up from Egypt.

Chanting.....

On Slide

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

5. From the Gospel of Mark 6:31-32

Jesus said to them, 'Come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that there was no time for them even to eat. So they went off in the boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves.

Chanting.....

On Slide

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

Opening address: Bishop Bill

Chanting.....humming

*Let your hearts seek and listen,
let your hearts trust again,
listen to God to his constant calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling,
listen now to the Spirit calling*

Part III - Ritual

Leader: In the darkness of the formless earth,
the Spirit of God was hovering.....and light came.....
In the darkness of our formless desires,
we come in our hunger and need.....

All: **We take hope in God who fashioned us** *On Slide*

Leader: Like Moses, we are invited,
into the moments of wilderness in our lives, day after day,
to face the unknown and unexpected:
open to meeting our God in the most unlikely of places

All: **We take hope in God who reveals Godself to us** *On Slide*

Leader: Like Isaiah and Hosea, we have heard God call to us,
in quiet stillness,
in open invitation,
in nature
and in the needs of those around us.

All: **We take hope in our God who calls us to come** *On Slide*

Leader: Like the weary disciples, the hungry crowds,
those without a shepherd,
we have heard Jesus say,
Come and eat!
Come be nourished.

All: **We take hope in God who shepherds us;** *On Slide*
We take hope in Jesus who gives us to eat;
We take hope in the Spirit who sustains us.

Leader: As we journey over the coming days seeking nourishment, nourishment that we might have Good News to share with others....
I invite you now to take a footprint of your choice from the baskets being passed among you, and to place yourself on this journey of nourishment and light.....there are different shapes and textures...take one that reflects how you are tonight...or how you might like to be by the end of our weekend.....

Choir hums Críost Liom as people make their way forward to place their footprints in the sacred space.....when all are seated, they sing it.....

Hymn: *Críost Liom – Fr. Pat Ahern....hummed.....sung....hummed.....*

Prayers of Intercession

Cantor: Lord in your mercy **All:** Hear our prayer

Leader: **We bring our prayers to God, who is the source of all nourishment**

Leader: For all who seek nourishment R/
For all who welcome others in the name of Christ R/
For all who share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others R/
For all who live in darkness R/
For all who are hungry R/

Leader : **We gather together the hopes of our hearts and the needs of our lives, as we pray
for daily bread
As together we say, *Our Father***

Closing Prayer

Leader: We have come here to be nourished from your incredible abundance,
from which you rained down manna on our ancestors in the desert.
During these days
open our ears so that we may be nourished with your Word.
Open our hearts
so that we may be fed with the Bread of life,
and send us out to be the Body of Christ in our world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son.

All: **Amen**

Final Hymn: Though We Are Many (Bernard Sexton) *On Slide*

Though we are many, we are one body,
we who come to share this living bread;
Cup of salvation, shared among all nations,
nourishing us now and evermore.

1. We gather in this place round the table of the Lord.
Christ's presence is revealed in our communion and his Living Word.
2. Now our communion recalls Christ's death and resurrection.
This living sacrifice is our salvation now and evermore.
3. And through this shared Eucharist we are the living Church.
We witness to Christ's love His living body active in our world.