

"Jonah," George Frederick Watts, 1894

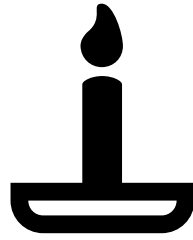
GUIDE FOR THE LITURGY

The Pilgrim House

October 26, 2025 – November 29, 2025

*"Bitterness is like cancer. It eats upon the host.
But anger is like fire. It burns it all clean."*

- Maya Angelou



WE GATHER TOGETHER

Ringling of the Bell

Entrance of the light, incense, and icon

“Alleluia 11”

“Laudate omnes gentes” (Praise, all peoples)

“Jubilare, servite” (Rejoice, serve)

“Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est” (God is here with charity and love)

(sung) Blessed is the beloved community of God’s peace.

And blessed are those who follow the ways of love.

(sung) **Come, dear friends, let’s feast together,**

Stories share and fears release.

Christ is opening wide the circle.

May this house shine bright with peace.

Come from everywhere and open your hearts.

There’s no need to fear what may spill out.

In the gathering of the Sacred, let anger speak its truth.

Let hurt tell its story.

Let sadness have the space to breathe.

The aches of the world echo through our spirits.

Thanks be to the Holy, who holds it all with us.

Singing – “Could it be that God is singing” (VT 42)



WE SHARE THE STORIES

Holy One, we know your Spirit moves at a peculiar pace. You do not rush our growth or push us beyond our capabilities, but neither do you cease calling us away from what destroys. Though we move slowly, may we be willing partners in our own transformation and faithful to the urgent cries of this time. **Amen.**

A story from the Hebrew Scriptures

Jonah's Call (1)

Jonah's Monster (2)

Jonah's Preaching (3)

Jonah's Pity Party (4)

(sung) Sacred stories to inspire us. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter – Psalm 1

PSALM TONE ONE



(antiphon) How blessed are those
who delight in the Law of A-DO-NAI *
and meditate on it day and night.

How blessed are those who reject
the path of *violence*, *
who refuse to associate with criminals
or even to sit with people who be-lit-tle *others*.

How blessed are those who delight
in the Law of A-DO-NAI *
and meditate on it day and *night*.

They're like trees planted by flowing water—
they bear fruit in ever-y *season*, *
and their leaves never wither:
everything they do will *prosper*.

But not wrongdoers!
They're like chaff that the wind blows a-way. *
They won't have a taproot to anchor them
when judg-ment *comes*,
nor will corrupt individuals
be given a *place* *
at the Gathering of the Just.

ADONAI watches over the steps
of those who do *justice*; *
but those on a path of violence and injustice
will find themselves irre-trieva-bly *lost*.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*; *
One God, now and for-ever. *A-men*.

(antiphon) How blessed are those
who delight in the Law of A-DO-NAI *
and meditate on it day and night.

(sung) **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reading from the Gospel according to the tradition of Matthew (12:38-42)

(sung) A message from our brother, Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

(sung) **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

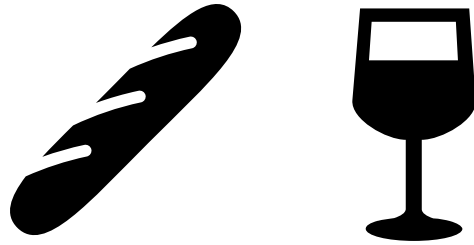
We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives; whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth; whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all; and, whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust that love. And in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others: to seek justice and to live in peace; to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness and in the power of the Spirit of Love; and in the company of all the faithful – past, present, and yet to come – so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen.

During times of struggle, this Pilgrim House is meant to be a Holy refuge. Here, we are invited to be real about our lives - what makes us weep or rage or feel nothing at all. We hear one another and hold one another, seeking wisdom together. In gratitude for this gift and the Holy presence with us, let us share our stories with each other.

We share our stories, expose our world's failings, and pledge to work for peace.

We confess all the times we have looked away from those who are hurting. We confess the ways we distract ourselves with trivial things to avoid facing the injustice around us. We confess that we are complicit in the structures and systems that perpetuate the unfair treatment of the most vulnerable. *(Silence is held.)*

Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ you are loved. **We pledge to move beyond apathy and ignorance to examine our privilege and do the work of peace. Amen.**



WE FEAST AT THE TABLE

The peace of Jesus be always with you. **And also with you!**

We share signs of peace and present the gifts.

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up in hope.

Let us give thanks for life and breath.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You call us to a conversion of our very selves, to turn away from empire, its seductions and iniquity. This is not a call out of the world, but into an alternative social practice, a community of resistance and healing, gathering in homes and around the table with you. When we forget, you help us to remember. When we are blind, you help us to see. When we are deaf, you help us to hear. When we despair and are overwhelmed, you send your Christ to give us hope. And so we join our voices with the everlasting song:

**Holy, holy, holy, One who walks with us.
All the earth is full of your imagination.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who shows us paths of peace.**

Holy and blessed is our brother, Jesus, Mary's child. He announced a new kingdom at the margins of the world, an offensive against the strongholds of oppression, and the dawn of liberation. He proclaimed good news of the kingdom, brought healing and deliverance, lived a life of nonviolent confrontation with the powers. He restored social wholeness to the sick and impure. He tore down the boundaries of tribe, gender, skin tone, religion, disability, and ill health. He overturned the dynamics of status and honor to make way for the outcast Jew and alien gentile. With him there is no longer male or female, slave or free, Jew or gentile. Patriarchy, slavery and racism have no place in his kingdom. He declared that all are made in God's image, all are welcome, all are included in his "last as first" revolution. He gave us a meal to remember: a meal to remember the ending of slavery and deliverance from the power of Pharaoh's dream. A meal in which he broke bread and drank wine: his body, broken for justice; his blood, shed for liberation.

And so we live in the light of the mystery we call faith:

Christ lives. Christ dies. Christ rises again and again.

Holy spirit of justice, transform us and these gifts into signs of hope for our bodies and souls, that we may be signs of liberation for those we meet along the way. May our homes and our tables be open, may they not have rigid boundaries. May this table and this home today be such a place. May we live from love and not fear. Amen.

We pray the prayer Jesus taught (Our Father/Mother)

(sung) **O lamb of God,
who takes away the shame of the world,
show mercy in us.**

**O lamb of God,
who takes away the shame of the world,
grant us peace.**

We share in our communion of solidarity.

Singing – “As the Wind Song through the Trees” (VT 373)



LITURGY OF OUR SENDING

The pastor’s commendation

(sung) **Go, dear friends, brings liberation:
stories share and fears release.
Christ has opened wide the circle.
May your lives bright with peace.**

We are not sent from here to simply rejoin the ordinary patterns of the world. The task of radical love calls us to a different way. As prophets break silences that oppress, righteous anger cracks open holy possibilities, and saints who went before us cry out from the past, let us go and declare the nearness of the Kingdom, and offer ourselves faithfully to the labors of liberation. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

*Prayers adapted from Enfleshed Liturgy Collective, Re-Imagining Worship Project of the Council for World Mission, and the Order of Saint Luke. Statement of Faith for the Progressive Christian Alliance, our partner in ministry.
The ancient scriptures are adapted from a variety of translations.*