



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Gathering suggestions for the President's Challenge

Hope Rising

April 8, 2018

Preparation

Encourage congregants to view the Presiding Bishopric's "March Financial Update" prior to the evening of April 8, 2018. Invite someone from your congregation to be prepared to discuss President Steve Veazey's message following the President's Challenge. Adapt the elements of this service to meet the needs of those with whom you are gathered.

Centering Hymn

Sing one of the following hymns several times.

"El amor nunca pasara"	CCS 6
"Dios está aquí / God Is Here Today"	CCS 150
"Come, Holy Spirit, Come"	CCS 154
"Nada te turbe"	CCS 241

Centering Prayer

Invite participants to individually enter into a Centering Prayer following the brief instructions below. For additional directions, go to <https://www.cofchrist.org/spiritual-practice-centering-prayer>.

Begin with a brief prayer to state your intention to God and to ask for help and guidance. ("I'm here, God. Waiting, listening, open. Empty me of worry and inner chatter. Allow me to rest in your presence.")

Focus on breathing God in, breathing all else out until you feel calm and centered. Choose a sacred prayer word or a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence such as God, Jesus, Abba, Spirit, love, peace, faith, hope, grace, joy, silence, stillness, calm, open, presence. Repeat it silently to yourself in rhythm with your breathing.

When the time for prayer has elapsed, offer a brief word of thanks to God, take several more deep breaths and become aware of the room around you.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:17-19

View President's Challenge: Hope Rising

President Steve Veazey

View the live question-and-answer session

Discussion

Consider the President's Challenge as it relates to future ministry and missional work of those gathered.

President Veazey closed his remarks with a question and several of his own responses. Discuss the question, his responses, and responses from the group gathered.

Sending Forth

Blessing of Hope

So may we know
the hope
that is not just
for someday
but for this day—
here, now,
in this moment
that opens to us:

hope not made
of wishes
but of substance,

hope made of sinew
and muscle
and bone,

hope that has breath
and a beating heart,

hope that will not
keep quiet
and be polite,

hope that knows
how to holler
when it is called for,

hope that knows
how to sing
when there seems
little cause,

hope that raises us
from the dead—

not someday
but this day,
every day,
again and
again and
again.

—Jan Richardson

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<http://paintedprayerbook.com/the-painted-prayerbook>

Hymn of Unity

“Kanisa Litajengwa/Oh, Who Will Build the Church Now?”

CCS 338

OR “The Trees of the Field”

CCS 645

Prayer of Hope