

Catholic Bible Institute – December 7, 2013 – Opening Prayer

Hymn: The Summons ('Will You Come and Follow Me'. Words, John L. Bell & Graham Maule)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

First Reading 1 Jn 1:1-4

Beloved:

What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon
and touched with our hands
concerns the Word of life—
for the life was made visible;
we have seen it and testify to it
and proclaim to you the eternal life
that was with the Father and was made visible to
us—
what we have seen and heard
we proclaim now to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us;
for our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.
We are writing this so that our joy may be
complete.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13

ALL. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you earth.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

ALL. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them.
Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice

ALL. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

before the LORD who comes,
who comes to govern the earth,
To govern the world with justice
and the peoples with faithfulness.

ALL. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!



Gospel Reading (John 1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race ;the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.



Intercessions

(Based on John 1: 6-8, 19-28)

Lord, as John the Baptist came to prepare the way for your coming, may we, the Catholic Church, seek to prepare the way for you to come into the lives of others. Help us so to follow Christ that in all our relationships with other people something of his love may be seen, something of his nature understood.

ALL: We ask that by our words, prayers and actions, we may be forerunners for Christ to enter the lives of others.

Lord, as John the Baptist came to call the people to repentance, may we, the Church, offer to others by our witness and example, an alternative way of life, a way of life based on love and truth, rather than selfishness and complacency. Help us to keep a clear view of your goodness, so that our values may reflect our faith and not the values of the society around us.

ALL: We ask that by our words, prayers and actions, we may be forerunners for Christ to enter the lives of others.

Lord, as John the Baptist came to challenge the religious people of his day, may we, the Church, always be ready to challenge our own attitudes and traditions in the name of love. Help the church to become a place of healing where the anxious and depressed, the sick and the bereaved and those who often believe they are of little worth, may find acceptance and love.

ALL: We ask that by our words, prayers and actions, we may be forerunners for Christ to enter the lives of others. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Peter Group – Concluding Prayer for Dec 7, 2013

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of your father and ours.
Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord
who enlists me in God's own work of justice.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a hunger for peace:
peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy.
I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love.

Come, long-expected Jesus.

Excite in me the joy, love, and peace coming from the manger of my Lord.
Raise in me, too, sober reverence for the God who acted there,
hearty gratitude for the life begun there,
and spirited resolution to serve the Father and the Son.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent we hail. Amen.

Scripture Reading: John 8:12-20

Advent Prayer of Intercession:

Leader: Holy One, as we prepare for the advent of Christ

Resp: Give us your spirit of wisdom.

Leader: As we seek to embody your love in the world.

Resp: Give us your spirit of good counsel.

Leader: As we seek to be faithful

Resp: Give us eyes to see beyond the obvious.

Leader: As we gather in this hour, we lift all in need before you.

Resp: Give us the spirit of love and humility.


**May we be instruments of your peace on earth
as we accept the gifts of your Spirit.**

(We'll sing verses 1, 2, and 5)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

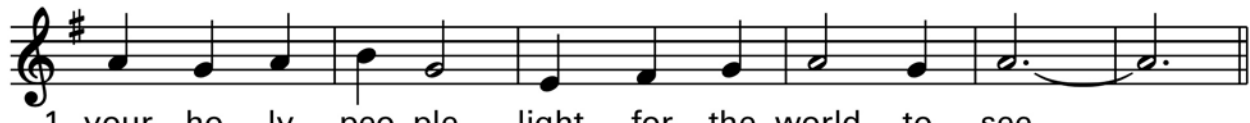
Verses



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —
3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

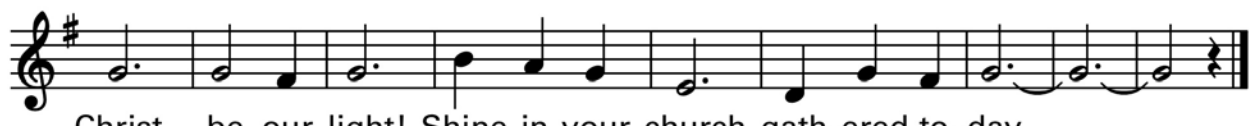


1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.