

INTERCESSIONS:

We will plant the life of your cross,
the victory of your rising,
on the ground of our life, O God -
**Lift up your risen life in us, O God,
that all the earth may see and believe.**

We will carry the life of your cross
among the bowed-down ones,
that they will turn and see you in us.
**Lift up your risen life in us, O God,
that all the earth may see and believe.**

We will carry the life of your cross
into the church, O God,
among our separations
that all may one day be one.
**Lift up your risen life in us, O God,
that all the earth may see and believe
that the Christ has come.**

Amen.

Pause for any personal petitions.

Our Father,...

BLESSING:

Go in peace into knowing that God goes with you.
We go in faith and hope.

**May we see the face of God turned towards us,
and the hand of Christ stretched out to hold us
and the Spirit be found as wisdom within us.**
Amen.



- Adapted from *Prayers for Life's Particular Moments*
by Dorothy McRae-McMahon.

*Turn to God,
Rejoice
in Hope*



GREETING:

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Turn to God,
**Who is the sacred centre of the universe,
eternal mystery of grace.**

Turn to God,
**Who is the one whose footsteps mark the way
on the journey into life.**

Turn to God,
**And hear the songs of freedom
sung deep in the heart of the world.**

Turn to God, rejoice in hope!
It is right to bring our thanks and praise!

CONFESSION:

Why do we not turn to you, God of grace?
You created us with the dignity of freedom
and we go our way as if we do not need you.

You offered us the gift of the whole creation for our home
and we consume it hospitality
with ungrateful disregard.

You gave us each other as brothers
and we build our citadel estates
and defend our gates as though we never met.

You called us into being your one Church
and we have failed to sit at table,
even when you are the host.
Why do we not turn to you, O God?

**If we look upon your face,
we will know who we are.**

Look without fear, people of God.
In the cross of Christ,
we see revealed the life of the New Covenant
which is given for all
for the forgiveness of sin.
In the Spirit, we will receive grace upon grace.

**In this we believe,
may we proclaim it in our lives.**

READING (Romans 5:1-5)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



RESPONSE:

In response to the word, let us affirm our faith:

There is God
creating out of our nothingness a vision of a new heaven and a new earth,
breaking forth beyond our horizons
in an eternal sunrise of justice, peace and grace.

This is our God, rejoice in hope.

There is God,
rising in our gatherings with nail-torn hands held out in earthly credibility,
bearing the marks of our deathly pain,
the cost of the resurrected life.

This is our God, rejoice in hope.

There is God,
Foly Spirit, living in all the earth as though truth is the possible ground of
our being,
turning the shadow of a cross into a shelter for our resting
on the way to life lived in passionate freedom,
until the whole creation
signs again in praise of its Maker.

This is our God, rejoice in hope.

READING (Romans 12:9-16):

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.