

A Time of Gathering “Meditations on the Love of Christ, part 1” Elizabeth Tomboulian  
*By Elizabeth Tomboulian, used with permission*

### The Singing Bowl

*The use of a Singing Bowl to aid in meditation goes back hundreds, maybe thousands of years across the far east. When it is sounded, the tone and the vibrations may help you clear your mind, cleanse your heart and comfort your soul. We will use the Singing Bowl through Lent as a way to open ourselves to God’s gracious mercy and love.*

Song “Christ is Here for Us ~ We Are Here for Christ” Elizabeth Tomboulian  
*Words by Elizabeth Tomboulian, used with permission; Music by Frederick Chopin ~ Public Domain, adapted by Elizabeth Tomboulian; adaptation used with permission*

### Calling on God

L: Let us pray together:

**All: Holy One, Our Refuge and Shelter, we call out to you, sometimes in praise, sometimes in distress—as life goes. Whether we perceive it or not, you are there. Open us this day to your presence in the smile of a friend, in the call of a bird— in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn “Our Lord, You Were Sent” Projected  
*Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette ©2000 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, used with permission; Music: Early US Melody; harm. from Tabor, 1866 ~ Public Domain*

**Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast  
To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;  
Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day  
The subtle temptations to turn from God's way.**

**How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?  
To seek, in one's serving, to first serve one's self?  
But by God's own word you remained ever sure:  
It's only in God that our lives are secure.**

**How could it be wrong to step out and to dare,  
To prove with great drama the depths of God's care?  
But you knew God's word, true since all time began:  
It's wrong to expect God to work by our plan.**

**How could it be wrong to just once bow the knee,  
To shake hands with sin to achieve victory?  
Yet you made it clear that no matter the cost:  
Your path was obedience, your way was the cross.**

**Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey;  
God's word filled your heart and you trusted God's way.  
Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy;  
You give us your Spirit, your peace and your joy.**

Honest Questions, Compassionate Response

L: ...And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are being forgiven, even now.

**P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God! Amen.**

The Peace

Scripture Reading

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Anthem

“What A Friend!”

Chancel Choir

*By Nancy Price and Don Besig ©1988 Shawnee Press CCLI #1365061*

Gospel Reading

Luke 4: 1-13

L: A Word of God that is still speaking,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of Preparation

“Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire”

UMH 603

*Words by Charles Wesley, Music from Est's Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1592;  
harm. from Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861 ~ Public Domain*

Verse 1

**Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire, let us thine influence prove;  
Source of the old prophetic fire, fountain of life and love.**

Message

“An Imperfect Life and Faith”

Rev. Sharon Pajak

A Season of Prayer

Choral Call to Prayer

A Time of Quiet for Personal Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen!**

We Share Our Gifts

Invitation to Giving

Song During Offering

Elizabeth Tombouliau

“Meditations on the Love of Christ, part 2”

*By Elizabeth Tombouliau, used with permission*

**\*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

UMH 95

*By Thomas Ken 1672 ~ Public Domain*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise him all creatures here, below!  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host!  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**Generous God, in light of your extravagant blessings— no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives— we offer our gifts and ourselves, and know that you transform what we plant into the produce of love. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

UMH 454

*By Clara H. Scott, 1895 ~ Public Domain*

**Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

\*A Blessing for a Joyfully Mediocre Journey

\*Benediction Response

Chancel Choir

\*Music for Going Forth “Meditations on the Love of Christ, part 3” Elizabeth Tomboulian  
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