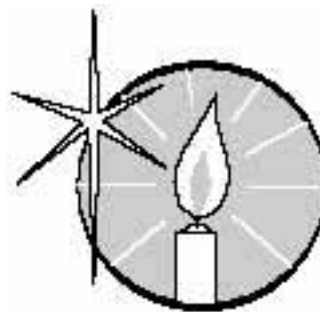

Mary, Inspire Us to Birth Love and Justice



Notes Gather in a circle, if possible, with a symbol of Mary and a candle in the middle. “Breath Prayers” are done silently several times, breathing in and out while praying the refrains. This ritual can be adapted for use at other times of the year, other than Christmastime.

Introduction

Breath Prayer

(While breathing in) Your presence.

(While breathing out) Moves in us (me).

Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here.
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To you shall come Emmanuel.

Leader

God will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.

(Isaiah. 7:14)

Reading

Mary's Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

Prayers

(Most of the prayers in this section are from “Walking the Prophetic Journey” – published by Woven Word Press – by Mary Beben and Bridget Mary Meehan.)

Reader 1 Birther God, you brought forth all creation from your Life-Giving Womb. O Love

of the Ages, who was born from Mary’s womb, we praise you and leap for joy in your presence.

Reader 2 O Holy One of ancient Israel, you revealed yourself in Mary’s womb, in a shining star, in humble shepherds, in a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. You embrace us with infinite love in every situation and relationship. You dwell in the depths of our hearts.

Reader 3 We invite you this day to set us free, heal us, transform us and empower us.... [W]e proclaim your praise:

All

Holy, Holy, Holy, Birther of heaven and earth. All beings are pregnant with your glory. Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed are you who dwell in all things. Hosanna in the Highest.

Breath Prayer

(While breathing in) Be birthed in us (me).

(While breathing out) O Word made flesh.

Song

O Come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,

And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To you shall come Emmanuel.

Reader 1 Embrace us in our brokenness and help us prepare in love for Christ’s birth in our lives. Impregnate the people of God with the power of Spirit-Church. May your Spirit birth a new world of peace and justice. May everyone feel accepted and welcome in our community.



Reader 2 Nurture our families and friends with love and peace (*especially those we pray for at this time*). Embrace the sick and those who have died (name specific people in need of prayer) in your motherly arms.

Reader 3 May we give birth to the Word made flesh in us everyday of our lives. May we give birth to the church of our dreams and hopes. May we give birth to a deep reverence for earth and live in harmony with all creatures in the earth of the new creation.

All
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all praise and glory are yours, Birther God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Reflection/Sharing Time

Silent reflection time.

Sharing

Share with each other how love and justice is being birthed in our world. Share how you feel called to be part of this birthing.

Intercessions Spontaneous

Conclusion

All
Loving, God, drawing on this time of communion, may we have faith, like Mary, to recognize, nurture, and birth love and justice in our world.

Birthing God, may we always be in touch with your infinite love and grace. Amen.

Greeting of Peace

Song *Joy to the World*