

## PAX CHRISTI USA COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE – week 4

*Fourth week of Lent – [Readings are from Friday, March 15](#)*

### Welcome

*We'll be remembering tonight: Joyce Morrissey Donohue sister to Sr. Jane Morrissey, Pax Christi Ambassador of Peace; Fr. John Rausch, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace; and Adele Azar-Rucquoi, long-time member of Pax Christi Florida.*



### Opening song

### Opening Prayer: “For peace in the world,” St. John XXIII

Lord Jesus Christ, who is called the Prince of Peace, who is yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace: Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and filial love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. Amen.

**First reading:** A reading from Psalm 34...

Our response is: God is close to the brokenhearted.

**R. God is close to the brokenhearted.**

God confronts those who do evil,  
to wash away remembrance of them from the earth.  
When the just cry out, God hears them,  
and from all their distress God rescues them.

**R. God is close to the brokenhearted.**

God is close to the brokenhearted,  
and those who are crushed in spirit God saves.  
Many are the troubles of the just,  
but out of them all God delivers them.

**R. God is close to the brokenhearted.**

God watches over the bones of the just,  
not one of them shall be broken.  
God redeems the lives of God's servants,  
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in God.

**R. God is close to the brokenhearted.**

**Gospel reading:** A reading from the gospel of John...

Jesus moved about within Galilee; he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Judeans were trying to kill him. But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. So when his disciples had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly but as it were in secret.

Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, "Is he not the one they are trying to kill? And look, he is speaking openly and they say nothing to him. Could the authorities have realized that he is the Christ? But we know where he is from. When the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from."

So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know that one, because I am from that one, the one who sent me."

So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a hand upon him, because his hour had not yet come.

The gospel of our God. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**A reflection from this year's Lenten reflection booklet, by Frida Berrigan**

*God is close to the brokenhearted.*

And that means God is close to each of us. We are all brokenhearted, aren't we? The psalm refrain can echo throughout our day today, allowing us to find solidarity, solace and even serenity in our sorrow. Our grief does not have to separate us from one another, it can knit us more tightly together.

How often have you become emotional and then apologized immediately, interrupting your pain to try and explain it? Not today! God is close to the brokenhearted; there is no need to apologize!

How often have you tried to weigh your pain against the pain of others, finding it heavier or lighter and then trying to measure out your feelings on some sort of scale: "It's not such a big deal, I shouldn't be so upset!" Not today! God is close to the brokenhearted; there is no need to regulate!

How often have you thought that you do not have time for your big emotions; thinking: "I just have to get on with things?" Not today! God is close to the brokenhearted; there is no need to procrastinate!

We are all brokenhearted! The wars never end and the rhetoric just gets grosser. Our friends are too busy. We are worried about money. The climate is dying. We don't have the answers. We don't feel wise or special, we just feel old. Yes! God is close to us because we are brokenhearted. We need God and God will help us heal each crack in our broken hearts and then we will help our friends and neighbors and family. We are not alone.

**Silent reflection**

We invite you to quietly reflect on tonight's readings and reflection, and to consider this Lenten question: *What is breaking your heart now, today?*

After our prayer service is over, we encourage you if you are with others, to share your answer to tonight's question. If you aren't with others but would like to share in a small group after tonight's prayer, we'll send everyone into breakout rooms with a few other people to share. We'll take now just about 3-4 minutes of silence to reflect quietly.

(In preparation for the Prayers of the Faithful, feel free to enter into the chat any prayers you have that you want those of us on this call to lift up over the coming week.)

### **Prayers of the faithful**

*(Community members are encouraged to write their prayers of petition in the chat. We will read aloud as many of them as time allows.)*

Our response is: God of tenderness, hear our prayer.

### **Closing prayer**

#### **Our Common Lenten Prayer, from the Archdiocese of Chicago (1983)**

*This is the fast that pleases me:  
to break unjust fetters,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to share your bread with the hungry  
and shelter the homeless poor.  
If you do away with the yoke,  
the clenched fist, the wicked word,  
if you give your bread to the hungry  
and relief to the oppressed,  
your light will rise in the darkness. (Isaiah 58:6-7, 10)*

All praise be yours, God our Creator,  
as we wait in joyful hope  
for the flowering of justice  
and the fullness of peace.  
All praise for this day, this season.  
By our weekly fasting and prayer  
cast out the spirit of war, of fear and mistrust,  
and make us grow hungry for human kindness, thirsty for solidarity  
with all the people of your dear earth.  
May all our prayer, our fasting and our deeds  
be done in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*(In 1-2 minutes everyone who wants to stay on the call will be sent to breakout rooms to discuss tonight's reading, reflection and Lenten question. Breakout rooms will automatically close after 15 minutes.)*