

Live from St. John's Chapel – A Thursday Evening Prayer Service

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: As the rains pour from heaven, soaking the earth that it may produce good things....

**People: So God pours God's love upon us, that we, too, may produce goodness and peace.**

Leader: We have been blessed with many gifts and talents.

**People: God desires that we use these gifts and talents for healing, peace, and hope.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and celebrate the mighty love and power of God.

**People: Praise be to God who has blessed us in so many ways. AMEN.**

**Opening Prayer**

**All: Lord, everywhere we look we see the imprint of your creative love. The wondrous works of nature show your majesty. As we gather this evening to celebrate your love and creation, keep us mindful that we are part of that created order, meant to be stewards and not destroyers. Prepare us to work for you in ministries of peace and justice. AMEN.**

**Prayer for One Voice**

Leader: Holy God, who shows us how to serve through the service of Jesus Christ, look upon us with kindness and understanding. There are times we dedicate ourselves to the service of folly, and then have the gall to ask with the sons of Zebedee, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

**All: In your infinite mercy, you ask, "What do you want me to do for you?" Unrepentant, we muster the further audacity not to ask, but to demand, "Grant us to sit beside you in your glory." When you gently warn that we do not know what we're asking, we claim, "to be able to drink the cup that you drink, and to be baptized with the baptism with which you are baptized." You're right, Lord; for the cup is filled with the wine of servanthood, and the baptism is unto sacrifice even to the point of suffering. And that service, that sacrifice, is your glory.**

Leader: We do not understand, but you do. And so, you are patient. You tolerate our prideful indiscretions, our arrogant presumptions. And then, you take up your teaching again, for it is plain that we do not yet understand what greatness resides in the choice to be servant, what majesty abides in the choice to be least.

**All: Forgive our slow reaming, God. Forgive our blustery confidence that erupts in speech when silence would be better, yet holds its tongue when one word could be decisive. We ask your forgiveness, O Lord, in the name of the One who came not to be served but to serve. By your grace and mercy, may our weaknesses and vulnerabilities, be changed and transformed into strengths, despite and because of who we are. Amen.**

**Prayer Service Meditation**

*Finding the Light of Christ*, by Rev. Mark Katrick

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Benediction/Blessing**

Leader: You have been called to serve the Lord with gladness. Go from this place knowing that God's blessings have been poured on you so that you may be a blessing to others. Be at peace and bring the good news of God's love and peace to all whom you meet. AMEN.