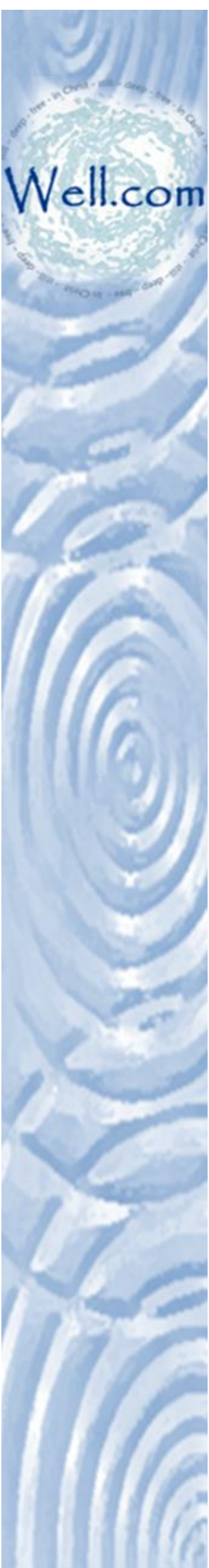


# SUNDAY LITURGY

September 2021





## *Welcome*

*You've joined us in a time of quiet for you and the Lord to enjoy together, in the company of others. You are in your own home and God is there with you. Any questions you hear during this time are intended for you to take into the quiet of your own heart.*

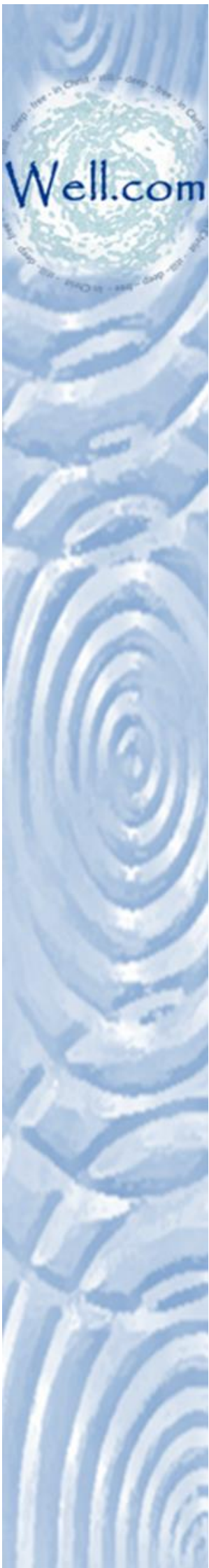
*We keep mikes on to maintain our connection with each other. However, at particular times you will be asked to mute. As in liturgy, our actions signal something of what God is doing with us. 'Let us mute' is God inviting us to listen carefully.*

Your responses are in **blue**

*This evening we reflect on the gospel of the day from the Revised Common Lectionary. Jesus healing the deaf man, the invitation to be open, to speak plainly.*

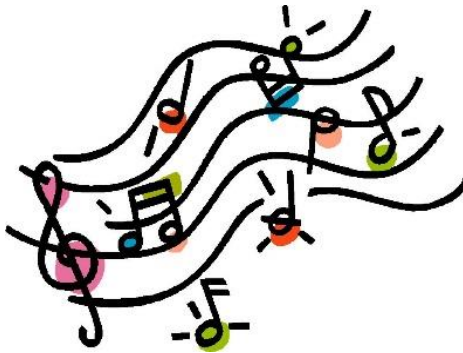
*Let Jesus invitation "Be opened" touch you in whatever it needs to this evening.*

*Hear the freedom and the challenge in the call to speak plainly.*



**Let us mute**

## OPENING MUSIC



God beyond all Names  
Bernadette Farrell

## OPENING PRAYER

Your responses are in **blue**

*Let us unmute, let us speak.*

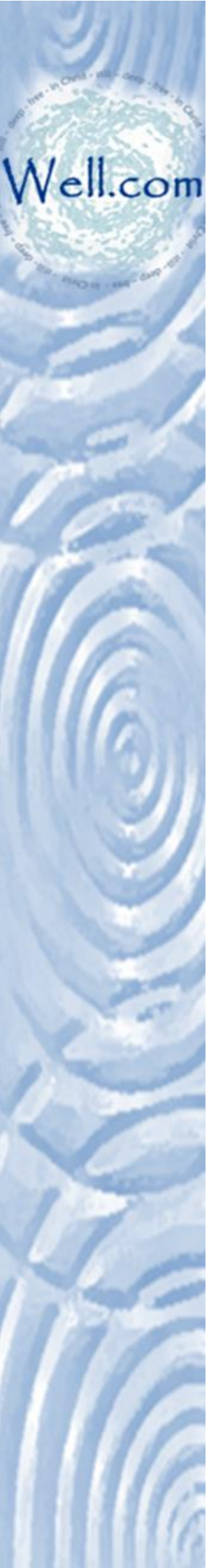
We join together in prayer  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen**

The Lord is here: **His spirit is with us**

*We become aware of the sky outside  
Stretching over each one,  
connecting us to each other and to God  
and of the life growing up around us  
A world of lavish and extravagant beauty  
reflecting God's generosity, God's beauty  
Pulsing with God's life.*

*(Pause)*



Creator God,  
present in all of your creation,  
each thing full of your life, your energy,  
Each part, a reminder us of your reckless generosity  
We are grateful

**Creator God, we thank you**

*We become aware of the Risen Jesus  
Sitting in the room with each one of us  
With you now. Smiling  
Happily spending all his time with you  
Because he enjoys your company  
(Pause)*

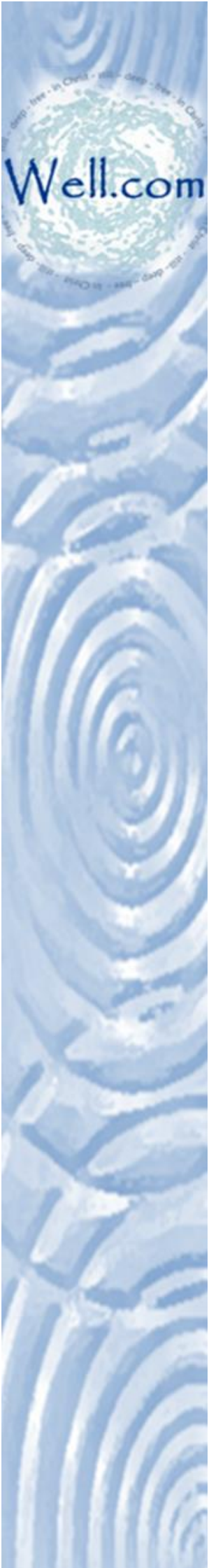
Son of God,  
who wanted to be with us so much  
that you came to live among us  
You are with us now, in our homes,  
Living in the middle of it all,  
Living in us, enjoying our company.  
We are grateful

**Son of God, we thank you**

*We notice our breath, we let it remind us of God's spirit  
In us. In you. Alive with the breath of God.  
(Pause)*

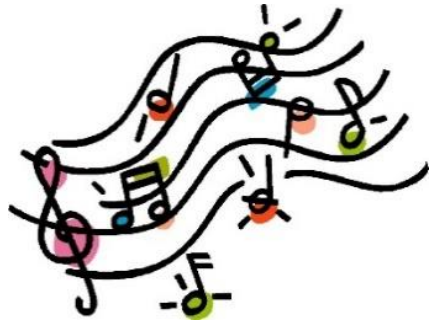
Spirit-Breath of God  
Filling us with God's life and God's love,  
Each one of us an experience  
of the wild and irrepressible goodness of God

**Spirit God, We thank you.**



The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us**

*Let us mute*



You, O Lord are in this place

Keith Duke

*Let us unmute, let us speak*

To the Lord who is each place, with each one of us we pray:

Creator God,

That we can glimpse you within creation  
is a beautiful thought

but also tells us that you desire to be seen  
to be found and known

Open our eyes, Lord  
as we walk through this world

feel the wind and sunshine

see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes

open our ears that we might hear you in song and silence

(Prayer – adapted from John Birch)

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

**AMEN**

## **Psalm 116: remembering the God who hears my voice**

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### **I love the Lord who hears my voice.**

I love the Lord who hears my voice and my pleas for mercy,  
He leans down when I am in trouble  
and brings His ear close to me.  
As long as I have breath, I will call on Him.

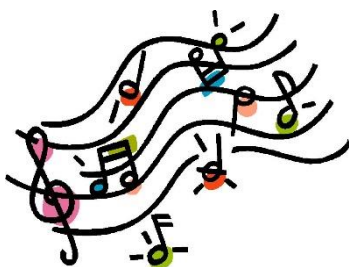
### **I love the Lord who hears my voice.**

Whenever I was knocked down,  
He reached down and saved me.  
He is gracious, overflowing with kindness and compassion  
O my soul! Return and relax. Come to your true rest,  
for God has listened and turned to me

### **I love the Lord who hears my voice.**

How will I repay back the Lord for his goodness to me  
I will fulfil the promises I made to Him  
I will be a witness to all His people.  
You know I am Your servant.  
I am devoted to You

### **I love the Lord who hears my voice.**



*Psalm 116: I love the Lord  
Kiran Wimberley and the McGraths*

## PRAYING FOR HEALING

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*Remember Israel: to live in God's way is to remember God with us, guiding, loving, leading us to love ourselves and others. But life can massage us out of shape; hearts hurt and harden, minds narrow. We forget we live in Love. We turn to lesser things to feel better. Healing comes with remembering that we are wanted and cared for, that God is enough. We are enough. We say the words of The Breastplate to be opened to this healing as we remember:*

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,

### **I am surrounded by His Love**

*Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every one who speaks to me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

### **I am filled with His Love**

*Always with me, he brings new love and life each day  
My heart overflows with his loving kindness  
Christ in me, my heart, my hands, my hopes.*

### **I am His Love**

Lord, free us from things that do not lead to you,  
free us to love as you love.

When we are wearied by hurt and pain,  
dogged by fear and insecurity,  
when we forget who you are and who we are,  
help us to know that we are wrapped in your arms  
open our ears to hear your sweet voice telling us  
that that we are your beloved disciples.

We make this prayer in your holy name, O Lord **AMEN**



## PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us** *Let us mute*

*We ask for help to be open to who Jesus is and what he is bringing about in this gospel and in us as we open ourselves to God's word active among us now.*

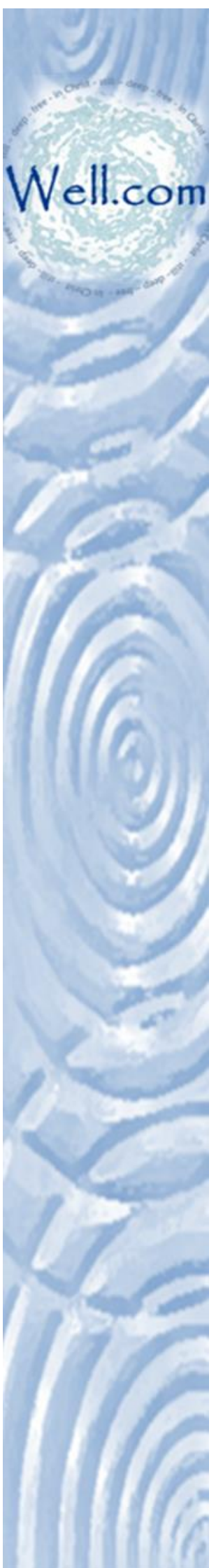


### **Mark 7 Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means "Be





opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

*We spend some time with the God who bends down to be among us – in Jesus.*

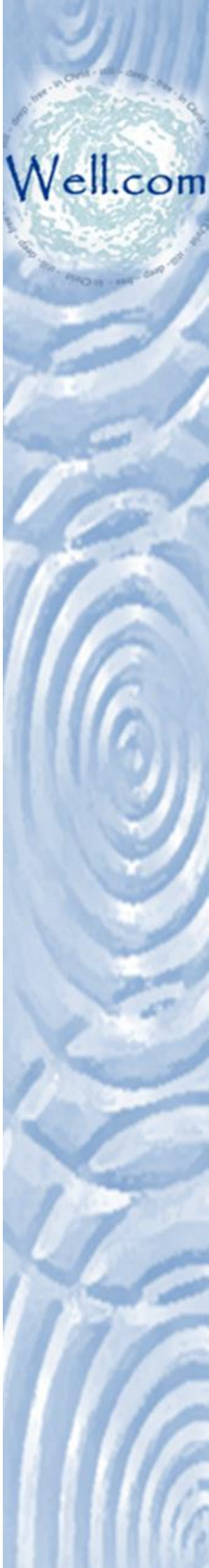
*The same God bends down now, coming into your home, into your heart do that he might listen to you*

*The invitation is to listen to him*

*To speak plainly – whatever that means for you at this time*

*Imagine the Lord bending down now, listening to places in you that you can't hear: forgotten, overlooked, unwanted, drowned out by the sounds of others. He is listening to it all.*

*Remember too that Jesus never forces his way in, never forces something out that's not ready to open to his loving attention. You imagine him listening to these places, if that's Ok, or content simply to be with you if it's not.*



**Our Father  
who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
They kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give u this day our daily bread  
Forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
For yours is the kingdom the power and the glory  
For ever and ever  
Amen**

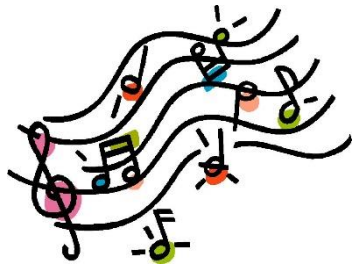
## **CLOSING PRAYER**

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### **Blessing to Open the Ear** *(Jan Richardson)*

That as we wake we will listen.  
That as we rise we will listen.  
That before our first words  
of the day we will listen.  
That when we meet we will listen.  
  
That at noontime we will listen.  
That at dusk we will listen.  
That at the gathering  
of night we will listen.  
That entering sleep  
we will listen still.  
  
Let us be opened O lord

**Amen**



May the peace of the Father, be with  
you this night

**May we rest  
In the stillness of God  
May we find acceptance  
in the deep love of his Son  
and in our coming and our going  
may we experience  
the freedom of the Spirit  
day by day  
calling us  
to new life  
together  
in Christ**

We leave this time of prayer together asking that we live  
and love:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit AMEN**



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