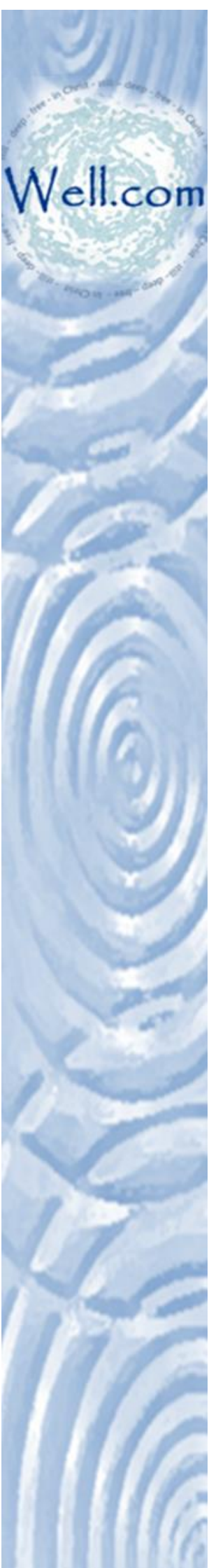


SUNDAY LITURGY

September 2021





Welcome

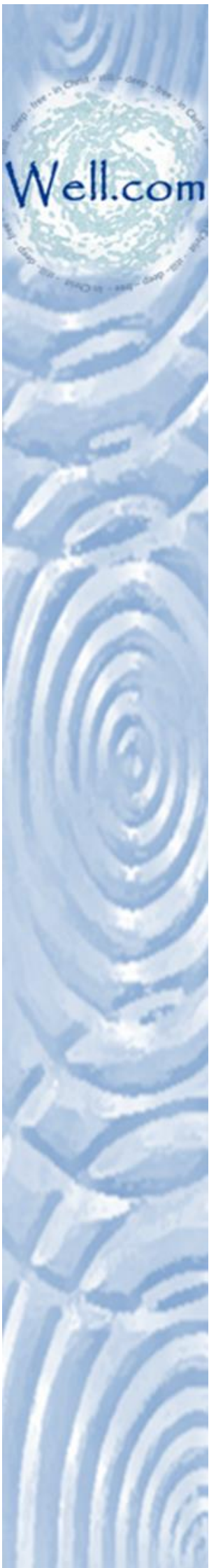
You've joined us in a time of quiet for you and the Lord to enjoy together, in the company of others. You are in your own home and God is there with you. Any questions you hear during this time are intended for you to take into the quiet of your own heart.

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**

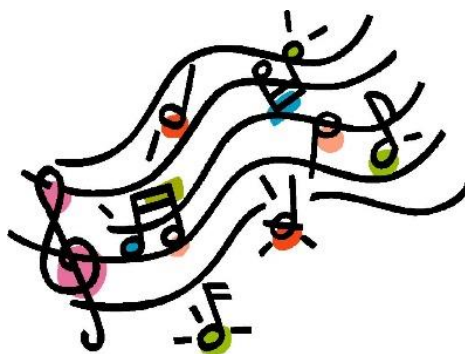
The longer Gospel for today in the Revised Common Lectionary holds two pieces together, both encouraging respect for the more vulnerable in the society at the time – women and children at a time when they, together with the sick and aged were treated as disposable. Life was cheap. Not for Jesus. He showed each person he met how much he/she was valued and respected, each one precious and irreplaceable in God's kingdom.

We'll reflect on a gospel which captures the essence of today's reading while allowing us a personal experience of how Jesus welcomes us and the parts of ourselves we think are disposable, unwanted, wouldn't be missed ... or that we might wish we could dispose of because we/others don't consider them to be acceptable or attractive.



Let us mute

OPENING MUSIC



God beyond all Names
Bernadette Farrell

OPENING PRAYER

Your responses are in **blue**

Let us unmute, let us speak.

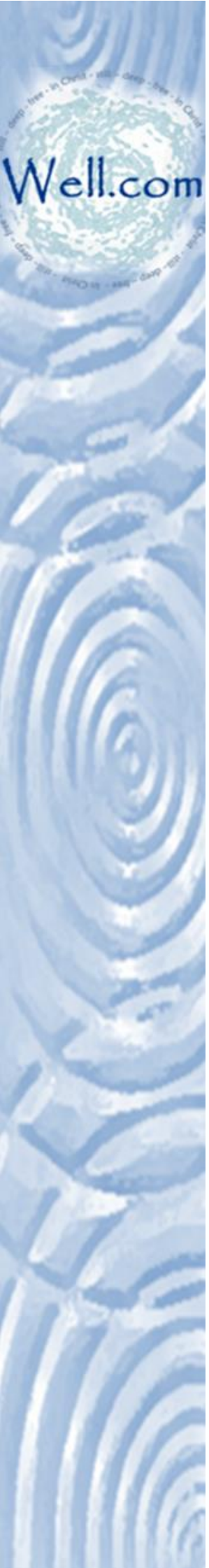
We join together in prayer
in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amen

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

*We become aware of the night sky outside
Stretching over each one,
the lengthening darkness connecting us
to each other and to God
and of a whole world of nature
moving in that darkness,
reminding us of the beauty alive
in the shadows of night
in hidden places in ourselves*

(Pause)



Creator God,
present in the lengthening darkness of autumn nights
Alive and active in all things,
Darkness is not darkness to you; it is a place to grow
We are grateful for your presence with us

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)*

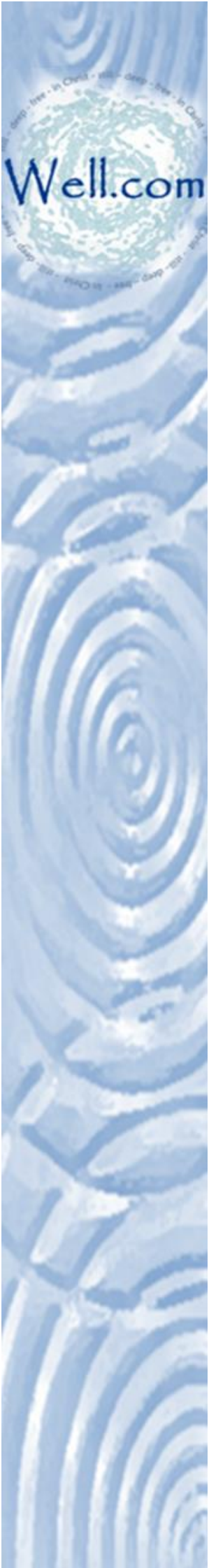
Son of God,
who wanted to be with us so much
that you came to live among us
You are with us now, in our homes,
Living in the middle of it all,
Living in us, Enjoying this chance to be with us
We are grateful for your company at home with us

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.
Each one of us precious, wanted, welcome
(Pause)*

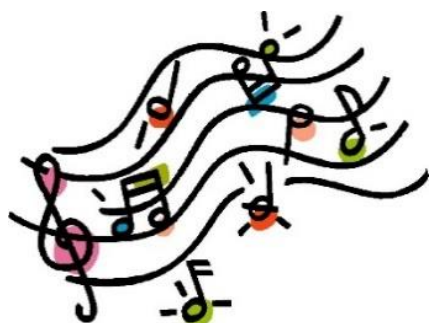
Spirit-Breath of God
Filling our hearts with God's life and love,
Each one pulsing with the irrepressible goodness of God
Each one of us irreplaceable
We are grateful for God's life within us

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,

You reveal yourself to us in creation.

Night and day speak of your powerful action in all things.

We bring the night and day places of our lives to you

Knowing that you welcome all,

that nothing rejected or disposable.

Open our eyes, Lord

as light dims and days shorten

that we may recognise your presence with us.

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

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

AMEN

Zechariah 8: 1-8

Zechariah speaks of a return from exile to the place God is dreaming for his people, a place where young and old alike are safe and welcome.

God says: you shall be my people and I will be your God

Thus says the Lord of hosts:
Old men and old women shall again
sit in the streets of Jerusalem,
each with staff in hand because of their great age.

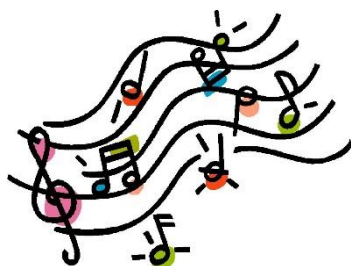
God says: you shall be my people and I will be your God

And the streets of the city shall be full
of boys and girls playing in its streets.

God says: you shall be my people and I will be your God

The Lord says, "This seems unbelievable to you
- a remnant, small, discouraged as you are -
but it is not impossible for me.
I will bring them home again
to live safely

God says: you shall be my people and I will be your God



*Psalm 37
Trust in God,
do good and dwell
in safety in the land Sons of Korah*



PRAYING FOR HEALING

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

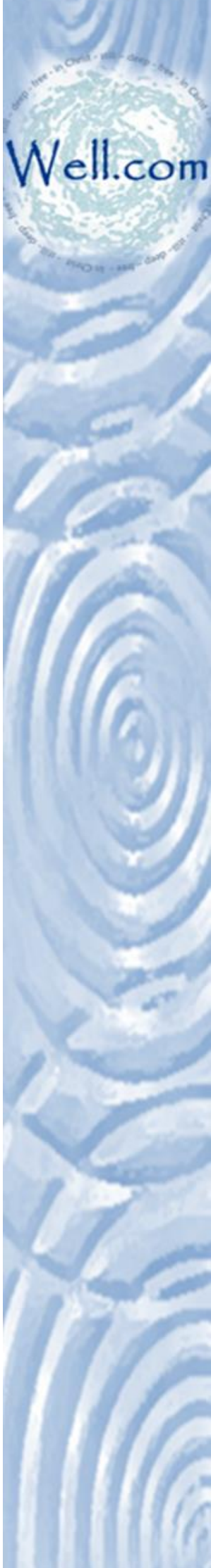
*Always with me, he brings new love and life each day
My heart overflows with his loving kindness
Christ in me, my heart, my hands, my hopes.*

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**



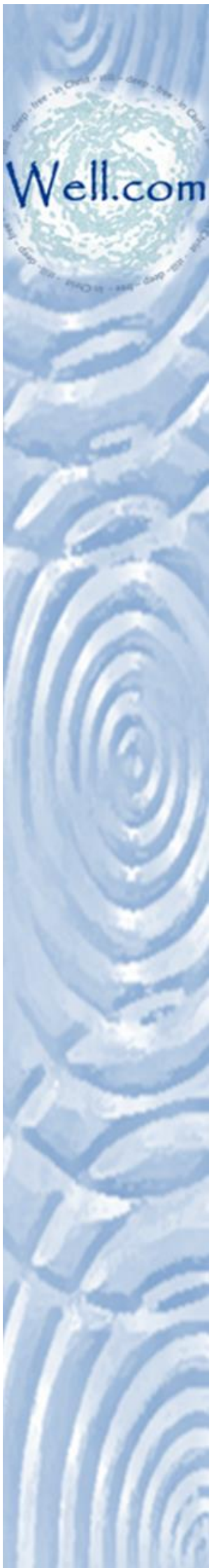
PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL

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

We ask for help to be open to Jesus and his concern for those people who were treated as if they were disposable, unwanted and unimportant. We bring to him those parts of ourselves, those people in our lives who might feel the same. We'll pray with the feeding of the 5000, but don't be fooled by its familiarity. God is always doing something new ... gathering the unwanted, offering care, food, love.



When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw this large crowd, and his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. When it was getting late, his disciples came to him and said, "It is already very late, and this is a lonely place. Send the people away, and let them go to the nearby farms and villages in order to buy themselves something to eat."



"You yourselves give them something to eat," Jesus answered.

They asked, "Do you want us to go and spend two hundred silver coins on bread in order to feed them?"

So Jesus asked them, "How much bread do you have? Go and see." When they found out, they told him, "Five loaves and also two fish."

Jesus then told his disciples to make all the people divide into groups and sit down on the green grass. So the people sat down in rows, in groups of a hundred and groups of fifty. Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate and had enough.

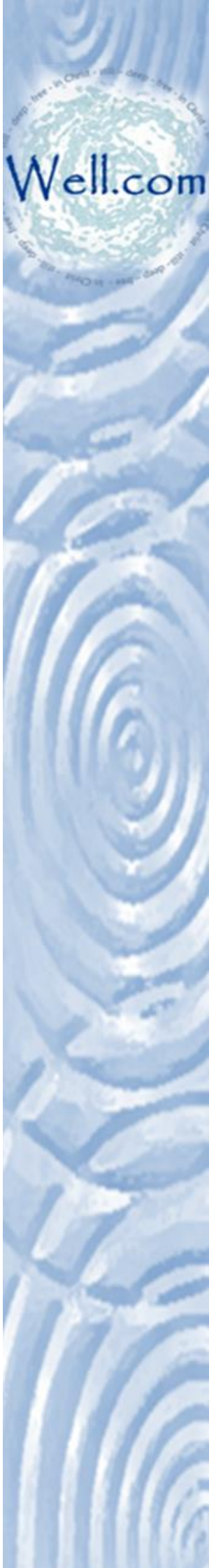
We will follow Jesus to that green field

... a familiar story

... a new chance to be seen, to be fed.

*Now I am revealing new things to you.
Things hidden and unknown to you.
Created just now, this very moment.
of these things you have heard nothing until now
So that you cannot say, O yes, I knew this*

Isaiah 48: 6-7

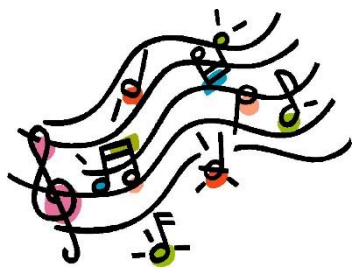


Our Father who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
They kingdom come. Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give u this day our daily bread
Forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
For yours is the kingdom the power and the glory
For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

CLOSING PRAYER

A blessing on your tears
A blessing on your hungers
A blessing on your mistakes
A blessing on your broken bits
A blessing on your lost pieces
A blessing on your unwanted parts
May all in you be gathered up
and know God's kindness within you.
May all of us be gathered up
and know God's acceptance among us.
May all beyond us be gathered up
and know God's warm welcome for all his people
May we be God's care for the broken and bruised
within and among us.
May we sit humbly before the God who made us
And see him smile
At all of us
this night and always.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



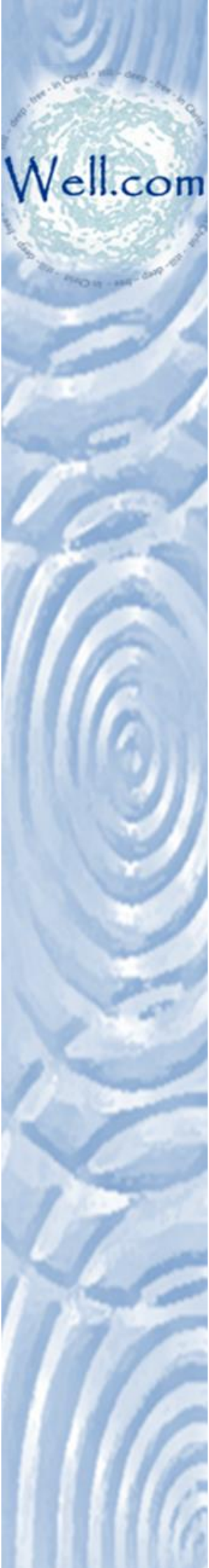
God smiles as he looks at you, his beloved child: *Sleep song* – Secret Garden

Take this moment to look at the screen and be aware of the people God has gathered up this evening. We pause to pray for each other in the silence of our hearts. (pause)

**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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