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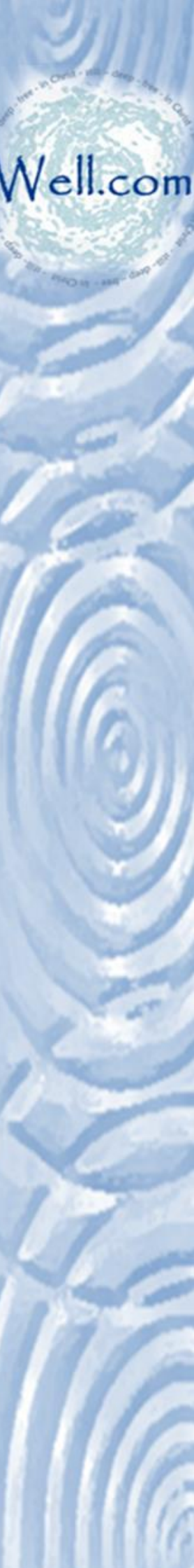
# SUNDAY LITURGY

JANUARY 2022

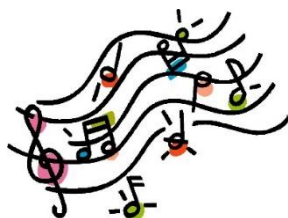
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**Let us mute**



## **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 darkness like a cord, connecting us to God  
and to each other together – connected - with him*

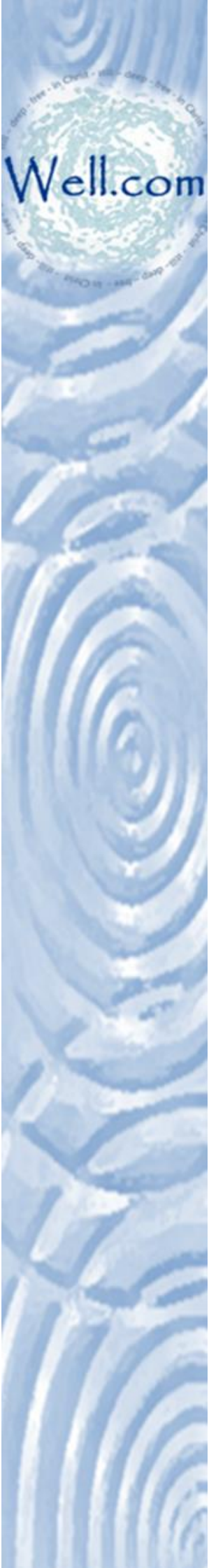
*(Pause)*

Creator God,  
present in the lengthening darkness of our evenings  
Alive and active in all things,  
We are grateful for your lavish presence in the beauty  
of creation as she is stripped and prepares to winter.

We lift our voices in gratitude  
**Creator God, we thank you**

*We become aware of the Risen Jesus, sitting in the room  
with each of us...he wants to be there with you. Smiling  
A God who so wanted to be close to you that he came to  
earth to be with you*

*(Pause)*



Son of God, who wanted to be with us so much  
that you came to live among us  
You are with us now, 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

We lift our voices in gratitude

**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 abundant life and love,  
Each one pulsing with the irrepressible goodness of God  
Each one of us irreplaceable  
We are grateful for God's lavish life within us

We lift our voices in gratitude

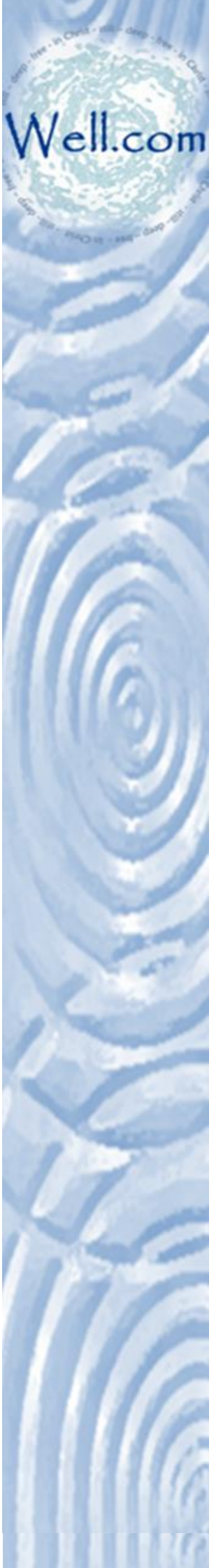
**Spirit God, We thank you.**

The Lord is here

**His spirit is od is with us**    Let us mute



**You, O Lord are in this place  
Keith Duke**



*Let us unmute, let us speak*

Lord, Help us to slow down, to be still and open to what you want for us in this new year, to know you with us in every twist and turn of the road ahead. **AMEN**

## **GOD OF COMFORT**

Isaiah 30: 26-31

### **Response:**

**See! My servant, My chosen one!**

"See! My servant, My chosen one! My much Loved,  
in Whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit on Him.

**See! My servant, My chosen one!**

He will say to the nations what is right from wrong.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry out or speak with a loud voice.

His voice will not be heard in the streets.

<sup>3</sup> He will not break a broken branch or put out a little fire.

He will be faithful to make everything fair.

**See! My servant, My chosen one!**

<sup>4</sup> He will not lose hope or be crushed,

until He has made things right on the earth.

And the islands will wait with hope in His Law.

**See! My servant, My chosen one!**

"I the Lord. have called you to be right and good.

I will hold you by the hand and watch over you.

And I will give you as an agreement to the people,  
as a light to the nations.

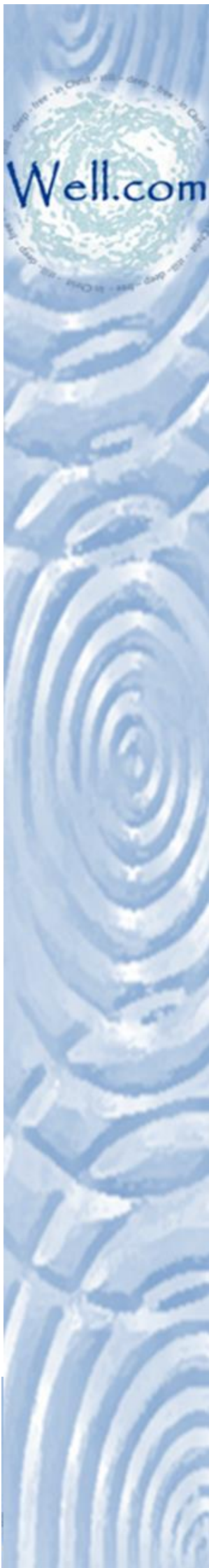
**See! My servant, My chosen one!**

You will open blind eyes.

You will bring people out of prison,

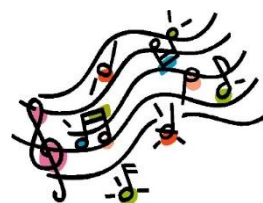
out of the prison where they live in darkness.

**See! My servant, My chosen one!**



## Bless the Lord my soul

WCF music



### HELP!!

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*When we slow down, we are better able to feel the thread of the love that is God, that connects and commits us to God and to each other. The pre- Christmas bustle may be fun but around but we can overlook some things that matter more, forget how much we matter. Even without the latest Chanel fragrance, God just loves the smell of us. We need God's help to live a life consciously connected to him.*

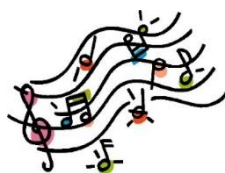
When I compare myself to others  
and feel unsettled and inadequate,  
remind me that you created me,  
that I am your work of art!  
That I am enough  
Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

When I over stuff my days with food and entertainment,  
encourage me to slow down  
to really enjoy what I eat and what I do  
and to recognise the parts of myself and my life  
hungry for my care and attention.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

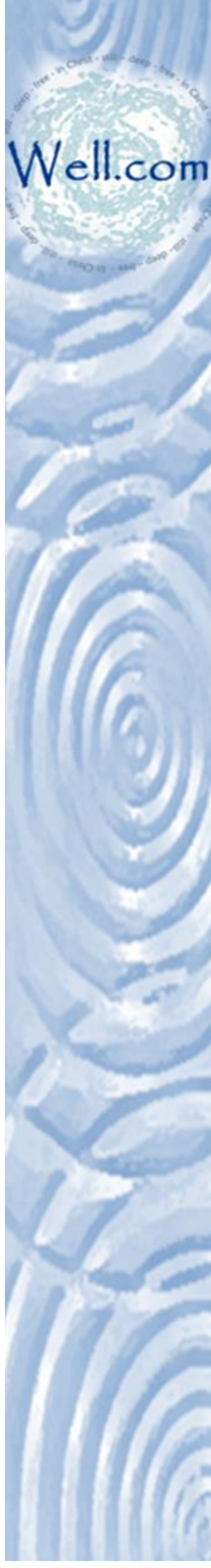
When I am tempted to lose heart,  
feel discouraged by the craziness and greed in the world,  
keep my eyes focussed on courage and kindness  
found often in small and surprising places.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**



**Lamb of God Have mercy on us**

Salt of the Sound



### **And so we pray:**

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 the cord that connects us to you  
is woven through the very fabric of our being.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

**AMEN**

### **PRAYING WITH JESUS IN THE GOSPEL**

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

*Let us mute: Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. Jesus has no need of the repentance offered in John's baptism but he chooses to get into the waters of the Jordan with every one anyway. He does what is always does: gets in there with us, identifies with us. God's response as he sees Jesus in there with everyone: that's my boy. I am well pleased with you.*

*The same Jesus is with you now. Has chosen to get into your waters, is asking you to hear God saying to him and also to you ... that's my girl, that's my boy. I am well pleased with you.*

### **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

The people were filled with expectation,  
and all were asking in their hearts  
whether John might be the Christ.  
John answered them all, saying,  
"I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

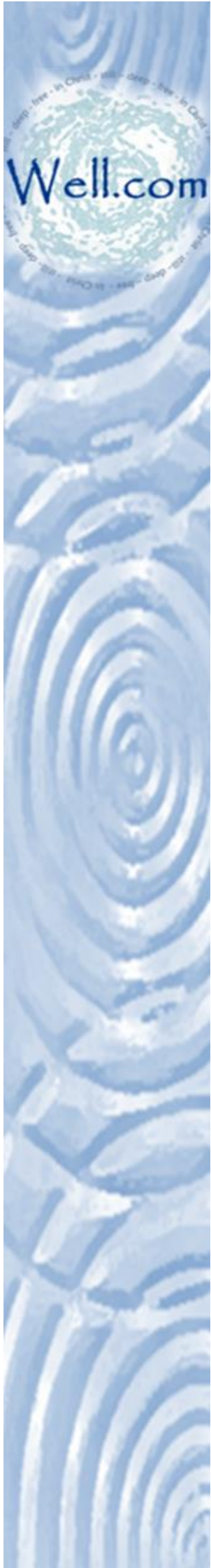


A time of prayer and awareness of God looking at each one of us, smiling, saying I am well pleased with you

We unmute now and we join with Jesus as he speaks to the Father, to pray to slow down so that we might see heaven happening in our midst. And so, with trust and love as we say together

**Our Father who art in heaven ....**

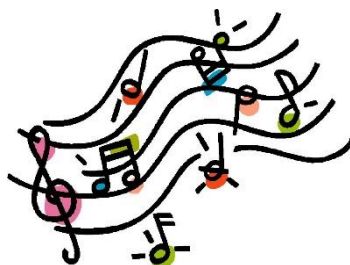
**Amen**



## CLOSING PRAYER

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Gentle Mother- Father God  
Always giving birth to something new in us  
Holding us In these Covid times  
Alone. Together.  
In laughter and in loss  
In tears and tension  
Draw us into your stillness  
Open us to your quiet presence  
Wrap us in the safety of your love.



### **Sleepsong** Secret Garden

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**

