

Evening Prayer

Opening song: **As a Fire is meant for Burning:** tune of God of day God of Darkness by Marty Haugen and Ruth Duck..

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and burning flame,
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds and customs , but to build a bridge of care,
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble list'ning spirit , we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
So may we be signs of oneness mid earth's people's many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

Prayer :

Ignite our hearts with a fire
Which burns the deadwood of yesterday's pains
And smothers selfishness in its conspiracy to overthrow the heart.

Burn warmly
Melting the icyness which formed on dormant relationships
Allowing them to spring to life.

Burn through the papers, which imprison us
The policies, paperwork, and procedures
Which snatch our energy and smother our passion.

Burn through the red tape,
The perceived boundaries, which hold us back.

Be our only source of light, of heat, of energy.

Be the fire the world sits around
To tell its stories and sing its songs.

Burn eternally in our hearts and in our world .
May we never attempt to extinguish the flames
Of Love, of Passion, of Justice.
Instead my we invite all to come create with us
One circle around the Great Flame.

Reading: from Psalms for Praying by Nan. C Merrill
Psalm 50

The beloved, through the energy of Love,
Brought forth the world.
From the rising to the setting sun,
Love radiates out to all the nations in perfect beauty.
The beloved has come and will not keep silence;
For Divine Love is a Consuming Fire,
Calling forth heaven and earth
To the judgement of all peoples:
“Gather around, my loyal friends,
all who by their repentance and recompense
follow the inner way.”
The universe forever proclaims justice,
And, the Beloved's Indwelling Presence
guides those who hear with their hearts.

Closing Prayer:

We come together passionate about the earth and all people. May Your passion, and love for all the inhabitants of our beautiful planet continue to burn in our hearts so strongly that we light a flame in others. May the fire burn warmly especially for those who have been left out in the cold, and those whose hearts have become frozen by hatred or discrimination. May the fire burn brightly that all may see the world in the light of truth. Amen.