



“Risen in Love” by online digital artist *InspiredGilly*

## **MID-WEEK MEDIATIONS**

10:00 AM *VIA* FACEBOOK LIVE

*Our time together will begin with the ringing of a chime, followed by a minute of silence, and then a musical selection. Allow yourself to use this time to focus on your breathing, and be as fully present as you can be in whatever space you find yourself in, with the gathered community, at this very moment in time.*

### Opening Responses

*Leader* O God, you summon the day to dawn,  
you teach the morning to waken the earth.  
*All* Great is your Name. Great is your Love.  
*Leader* For you the valleys shall sing for joy,  
the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
*All* Great is your Name. Great is your Love.  
*Leader* For you the monarchs of the earth shall bow,  
the poor and persecuted shall shout for joy.  
*All* Great is your Name. Great is your Love.  
*Leader* Your love and mercy shall last forever,  
fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.  
*All* Great is your Name. Great is your Love.

### Song

*Fresh as the Morning (by Shirley Erena Murray)*

*Refrain*

Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,  
God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,  
God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

### Prayer

*Leader* God, bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves.  
*All* Amen.

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end. Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled. When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us! But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

## Kaleidoscope Bible Study

*The Bible passage will be read 3 times. After each reading, everyone will be invited to share their reflections.*

### **The First Reading:**

Capture a word, a phrase or an image when listening to the passage.

*The passage is read.*

Take a moment of silence to capture a word, a phrase or an image that stood out from the passage for you.

Share your word, phrase or image.

### **The Second Reading:**

Consider the following question while listening to the passage...

"How have you experienced extravagant love in the past week?"

*The passage is read.*

Take a moment of silence to reflect on the question.

Share your reflection to the question.

### **The Third Reading:**

Consider the following question while listening to the passage...

"What does God invite you to do, be or change through this passage?"

*The passage is read.*

Take a moment of silence to reflect on the question.

Share your reflection to the question.

We end this time of study with a prayer circle:

Consider and share your responses to the following questions...

I thank God today . . .

I ask God today . . .

Once we've finished reflecting together, we end with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Prayers**

*Leader* Merciful God, you have not abandoned us to the grave.

*Assembly* Guide us with your steadfast love.

*Leader* In your presence there is fullness of joy.

*Assembly* Guide us with your steadfast love.

**The assembly may share particular intercessions or thanksgivings.**

*Leader* You send us in the world to tell the story of your divine grace and mercy.

*Assembly* Guide us with your steadfast love.

### **Prayer**

*Leader* May God bless us; may God keep us in the Spirit's care and lead our lives with love. May Christ's warm welcome shine from our hearts and Christ's own peace prevail through this and every day, until greater life shall call us.

*All* Amen.

### **Going Out**

*Leader* Alleluia! Come to us, O risen Lord,

*All* and enliven us with your eternal love. Alleluia!

Service adapted from:

Wild Goose Resource Group. GIA Publications. (1999). *A Wee Worship Book: Morning Prayer C.* (25-29)

Eric Law and The Kaleidoscope Institute. (2014). *Gracious Leadership Training 1 Workbook.* (15)

The Episcopal Church. (2014) *Daily Prayer for All Seasons.* (110-112)