**Saturday Morning Prayer Meeting**

**August 18, 2018**

**Non-Traditional Prayer**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us pray. Thank you, Father, for all that you’ve given each of us here in this room. Thank You for giving us the opportunity to get together once again as a group. Help us to grow in faith and in the knowledge of Your unbounded love. Help strengthen our relationship with You. Hear our prayers and guide us in the right direction. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in unity with the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

**Welcome Jesus**. As said in Matthew 20:17, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Let us welcome the Lord to be with us here today as we continue our faith journey and grow in the knowledge of Your love. Let us now focus on Jesus and silently welcome him into our midst and into our hearts with praise and adoration.

(Observe a period of silence, allowing our minds to become clear and our hearts to become open)

**Opening Prayer**

**Leader**: With Summer about to reach its peak, all of nature is at its most potent, vigorous state. Flowers, animals, bees, rivers, oceans, forests and rivers and fish and streams abound. We (hopefully) spend more time outside at the beach, in the garden, in or on the water and hiking on wooded trails, (and chasing little white balls), in witness of your wondrous beauty. Let us appreciate the divinity in all of Your Creations so that we may be physically and spiritually refreshed by them and come to know You more intimately in the silence of our hearts.

**All: Amen.**

**Preparation Song**

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| --- | --- |
| **Cherokee Morning Song**  We n' de ya ho. We n' de ya ho.  We n' de ya,  We n' de ya,  Ho ho ho ho, He ya ho, He ya ho,  Ya, ya, ya. | **Cherokee Morning Song** (English)  I am of the Great Spirit, it is so.  I am of the Great Spirit, it is so.  I am of the Great Spirit,  I am of the Great Spirit,  It is so, It is so, it is so, it is so.  Great Spirit, it is so, Great Spirit, it is so  Great Spirit, Great Spirit, Great Spirit. |

Also check out guitar instrumental: Bill Mize "Cherokee Morning Song" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCt4K0caApM>

**Topic Introduction**

**READINGS**

**Cherokee Great Spirit Prayer**

Courtesy of Special Forces Captain Lorenzo (Bear)

Oh Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to everyone, Hear me. I come to you as one of your children. I am weak ... I am small... I need your wisdom and your strength. Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets. Make my hands respect the things you have made. And make my ears sharp so I may hear your voice. Make me wise, so that I may understand what you have taught my people and the lesson you have hidden in each leaf and in each rock.

I ask for wisdom and strength. Not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to right my greatest enemy -- myself. Make me ever ready to come before you with clean hands and straight eye. So as life fades away as a fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

**SEEING GOD’S DIVINITY IN NATURE**

**Job 12:7-10**

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;  or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.

Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?

In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.

**Romans 1: 19-20**

For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made.

“If humankind could have known God without the world, God would never have created the world.” **–Meister Eckhart**

**JESUS PRAYED AMONG NATURE**

**Mark 1:35**

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed” (Mark 1:35).

**Luke 5: 16**

“He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed”

**Luke 6-12:**

In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.

**SEEING GOD’s DIVINITY WITHIN US**

**John 17:20-21**

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.”

**John 14:20**

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.

**Psalm 46:10**

**10**He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;  
    I will be exalted among the nations,  
    I will be exalted **in** the earth.”

**MUSICAL REFLECTION**

**Indescribable**

[Chris Tomlin](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enUS597US597&q=Chris+Tomlin&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLSz9U3MMzNKKswBADkopBkDgAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjxwrj4gvPcAhXIT98KHSPoDaYQMTAAegQIBRAF)

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea  
Creation revealing Your majesty  
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring  
Every creature unique in the song that it sings  
All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go  
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow  
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light  
Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night  
None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God  
You are amazing God

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
All powerful, untameable,  
Awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim  
You are amazing God

Indescribable, uncontainable,  
You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name.  
You are amazing God  
Incomparable, unchangeable  
You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same

You are amazing God  
You are amazing God

Songwriters: Laura Story

**REFLECTION**

**Leader:**

**Shared Reflection:** *Share with the group a reflection on the above, or any question below.*

Who is “Our” Father? Do we all worship the same Creator? If someone does not accept Jesus as His Lord and Savior, can he get to heaven?

Where do you go to do your best praying? Church, home, “into the wilderness”?

When/Where have you experienced the divine nature of God in His Creations?

As part of your Catholic upbringing, have you ever been taught about non-traditional prayer or ways to connect with the divine reality inside all of us, such as through Centering Prayer, Contemplation/Meditation ?

Should Catholics, like other religious traditions, spend more time focusing on nature, beauty, contemplation, meditation, seeing God in all things, etc.,

Has God ever revealed himself to you in the silence of your heart?

**CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER**

**Jesus is here**. We focus on Jesus and welcome him, audibly and silently, with praise and adoration.

**Thank you, Lord.** Thank Jesus for people you care about, calling them by name. Be audible and brief.

**Help me, Lord.** Be honest, specific and to the point. Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you? Answer him by praying for yourself (that is, for your problems, for forgiveness, guidance healing) using the pronoun “I” “my” and “me.”

**Help my brother/ sister Lord.** Pray for each person by name when you pray.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Leader:** The Lord has once again given us the opportunity to get together as a group and join together in prayer. May the Lord be with us, keep us and our families safe, and continue to bless us with His peace. Let us praise the Father in the words that Jesus taught us.

**All:** Our Father ……

All: Amen.