

## I. WE ARE COMMUNITY

*April 17, 2023*

### Hymn

Option I. All Are Welcome

Gather 850

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Option II. They'll know we are Christians

Gather 835

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, (2x)  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

#### **Refrain**

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, (2x)  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: **Refrain**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, (2x)  
And we'll guard human's dignity and save human's pride: **Refrain**

### Prayer

*Leader:*

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pray as one:

*All:*

Good and Gracious God,  
We come before you as the community of St. Margaret of Scotland,  
gathered today to pray a Novena for clarity of mind and heart  
during this search for new school leadership.  
We ask you, O God, for support and strength,  
direction and guidance,  
joy and peace  
as we seek to be people who share a common faith, concern and destiny.  
Lead us the way we need to go, as our story unfolds before us.  
We make this prayer, filled with hope,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Reading

From *The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day

We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes in community.

## Response

*Leader* At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;  
*All* we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

*Leader* Let your deed be seen by your servants,  
*All* and your glorious power by their children.

*Leader* Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us;  
*All* Give success to the work of our hands.  
O give success to the work of our hands.

## Word of God

Ephesians 4: 18b-20

Be filled with the Spirit,  
addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts,  
giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ  
to God the Father.

**Questions for Reflection** – *After leader reads questions aloud, all pause to reflect during one minute of silence.*

- How is life in community at St. Margaret's a source of joy and gratitude for you?
- In what ways should our embrace of the value of community impact decisions about our search for new leadership at our school?

## Petitions

*Leader:* Christ hears and saves all who hope in him. Let us bring him our needs.

That our school will foster a spirit of cooperation and interdependence, welcoming and cultivating the sharing of our full humanity; we pray...

**R.** Lord, hear our prayer.

That our children will experience the encouragement, guidance, safety, and love of community at St. Margaret of Scotland; we pray... **R.**

That our community, inspired by the first Christians, will grow into a model of sharing and mutuality, and become a living experience of Gospel values; we pray... **R.**

For what else shall we pray?

*Individuals may offer intentions.*

## **Prayer of Saint Margaret of Scotland**

*Leader:* Let us recall our mission as together we pray:

*PRAYER IS PRINTED ON BACK OF COVER PAGE*

### ***Optional, following Novena:***

Share your reflections from above questions, focused on the mission value of the day.

- Index cards available at the shared novena, or
- Email [PraySMOS@gmail.com](mailto:PraySMOS@gmail.com)
- Comments received may be shared with the community and those who search for our new staff members.