

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-9 (CEB)

Claudia Meyer

Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

***Call to Worship**

One: Sisters and brothers, call forth from your midst a number of people, full of the Spirit and wisdom, and commission them to preach.

Many: Having that gift, let them preach with imagination.

One: Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to serve.

Many: Having that gift, let them serve with vigor.

One: Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to teach.

Many: Having that gift, let them teach with understanding.

One: Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to encourage.

Many: Having that gift, let them encourage with patience.

One: Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to give aid.

Many: Having that gift, let them give aid with zeal.

One: Call forth from your midst a number of people and commission them to do acts of mercy.

Many: Having that gift, let them do acts of mercy with cheerfulness.

All: Spirit of God, grant us the vision to see our gifts and the desire to offer them in your service.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Open the gate! The Shepherd is coming! We hear his glad voice! O, call us by name! Lead us, O Shepherd, into the green pastures! Lowly in labor, despised by the world, this Shepherd is trusted only by his own. No strange voice will we follow ; we will flee from the sound of the stranger. We will follow that Shepherd who brings home his sheep. One door, one fold, one flock, one Shepherd. Open the gate! The Good Shepherd comes! AMEN.