

## THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*PAX (Pilgrims After Christ), an Intentional Eucharistic Community, is a Catholic Christian inclusive community committed to planning and celebrating meaningful liturgies, developing community and responding to the needs of our world in justice as those needs are revealed to us in liturgy and community dialogue.*

**Theme: What Will We DO in Response to Laudate Deum?**

**Introduction:**

**Patty**

Joseph Nangle, OFM Engaged Spirituality

**Gathering Song** Let There Be Peace on Earth – UNICEF Christmas card images

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPH4LRASWbo>

**Opening Prayer and Penitential Rite**

**Fr. Ted**

**First Reading**

**Stephanie and Eric**

**Sister Joan Chittester, The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage**

It is the unwavering faith, the open hearts, and the piercing courage of people from every level of every society that carries us through every major social breakdown to the emergence again of the humanization of humanity. In every region, everywhere, they are the unsung but mighty voices of community, high-mindedness, and deep resolve. They are the prophets of each era who prod the rest of the world into seeing newly what it means to be fully alive, personally, nationally, and spiritually.

**Laudate Deum, 2, Pope Francis**

Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si', when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc.

**Psalms – Blessed When the World Has Fallen Apart – Recording - Patty**

Reflection on a blessing from a Nigerian Chief, given Juneteenth 2022, in Maine - written by Vanessa Titang

The world has fallen apart  
Though this is not the first time,  
It is just one of the times  
where it is all too much;  
Intentionally crafted  
By mortal powers that be.  
Not ordained by divinity.

Weakened,  
But not dead

I remind myself.  
And yesterday I was again reminded  
Of ancestors  
Who have been tasked similarly.  
What is next?  
What do I do now?  
When my back has been given  
Far too much weight  
To bear;

When the final straw is placed?  
I did not know what I needed,  
Until it was before me,  
A spirit of power and memory,  
Backlit by the warm glow of summer sun,  
A masked figure,  
Familiar to family I do not know,  
And my predecessors,  
Speaking in a language I do not know,  
But understood.  
The slow, careful sound of ankle bells  
And a motion to come forth,  
Welcomed me in,  
And back,  
Back,  
Back,  
In time and space,  
Back.  
This has happened before,  
And here  
we are;  
Still.  
A blessing given

Of memory,  
Of protection,  
Of our shared connection,  
I cannot know the intention,  
But I felt it  
We all felt it.  
Let us not forget;  
Never forget,  
This moment,  
Or all that brought us  
Here—in time and space.  
Remembering  
Past, present  
And that  
we are not done,  
—This is always just beginning.  
We are our ancestors' wildest dreams,  
May we be our descendants' bravest heroes,  
keepers of the flame,  
Knowing we are the ones we have been  
waiting for,  
Thus,  
let's go!

## **Second Reading**

**Sally and Al**

### **Laudate Deum, 58, 69, 72, Pope Francis**

Once and for all, let us put an end to the irresponsible derision that would present this issue as something purely ecological, “green”, romantic, frequently subject to ridicule by economic interests. Let us finally admit that it is a human and social problem on any number of levels. For this reason, it calls for involvement on the part of all. In Conferences on the climate, the actions of groups negatively portrayed as “radicalized” tend to attract attention. But in reality they are filling a space left empty by society as a whole, which ought to exercise a healthy “pressure”, since every family ought to realize that the future of their children is at stake.

I ask everyone to accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful, because that commitment has to do with our personal dignity and highest values. At the same time, I cannot deny that it is necessary to be honest and recognize that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level.

If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact. As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another.

**Gospel Acclamation: Halle! Halle! Halle! With CCUMC Video    PAX Folk Group**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 6, 10: excerpts**  
The Good News of Salvation!  
R. Glory and praise to our Savior Jesus Christ!

**Fr. Ted**

**Homily - *Brief to allow breakouts after Liturgy***

**Fr. Ted**

**Creed for the Season of Creation 2023 – Fr. Jim Hug**

**Stephanie and Eric**

**Offertory Song – Come to the Water (Dick Bowling favorite)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1gKmZBtoil>

**PAX Folk Group**

O let all who thirst, let them come to the water.  
And let all who have nothing, let them come to the Lord: without money, without price.  
Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?

And let all the poor, let them come to the water.  
Bring the ones who are laden, bring them all to the Lord:  
Bring the children, without might, easy the load and light; come to the Lord.

Text: Isaiah 55:1,2; Matthew 11:28-30; John Foley, b. 1939. Tune: John Foley.  
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**In honor of PAX members who have gone before us we will read the names of those members of blessed memory.**

## **In Memoriam**

**Sally and Al**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**Patty**

**RESPONSE: Dear God show us the way**

**Sharing of Peace**

**Fr. Ted**

**Spiritual Communion**

**Fr. Ted**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Sylvia**

**Communion Meditation**

**Sylvia**

Robert F. Kennedy, South Africa, 1966:

"Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change."

"Each time a person stands up for an idea, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

## FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Fr. Ted

**INVITATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER LITURGY TO SHARE STORIES OF WHAT WE HAVE TRIED TO DO AND HOPE TO DO IN THE FUTURE – Breakout Groups and PAX Sharing**

**Sing for the Planet: Closing Song - this one from Brugge**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSHo36QJiew>

We need to wake up, we need to wise up, we need to open our eyes and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!

We're on a planet that has a problem, we've got to solve it, get involved and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!

Make it greener – make it greener, make it cleaner – make it cleaner  
Make it last, make it fast and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!

No point in waiting or hesitating, we must get wise, take no more lies and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!

We're on a planet that has a problem, we've got to solve it, get involved and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!  
Make it greener – make it greener, make it cleaner – make it cleaner  
Make it last, make it fast and do it Now! Now! Now!  
We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!  
**We need to build a better future and we need to start right Now!**

**With special gratitude to our joint Education Committee and Caring for Creation Committee for collaborating on this liturgy: Sylvia, Sally, Patty and Stephanie with support from Father Ted. For inspiring help with music from Ann Brown and the PAX Folk Group. For the slides and video wizardry of Rhonda Freeman our Technical Host for this liturgy.**

**Interlude before discussion: Tom Paxton: Peace Will Come**