Leader: O Christ, tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you and those who think you are far away; teach us, in every moment, to place our spirits in your hands. While we are still looking for you, already you have found us.

*Instrumental prayer if offered*

*Silence*

Leader: O God of all, your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*All saying together:*

Psalm 36: 5-9

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, * and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; * you save both man and beast, O Lord.

7 How priceless is your love, O God! * your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; * you give them drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life, * and in your light we see light.

*Silence*
Reader: Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.’ But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.’ (Luke 10: 38-42)

**Holy Conversation** about the Scripture readings.

ALL

Holy spirit, spirit of peace, through our prayer make us attentive to those around us.

Holy spirit , spirit of life, lead us to share and to live in solidarity with others.

Holy spirit, spirit of love, calm the sufferings of all living in poverty or loneliness, those who are hungry.

Holy spirit, spirit of strength, give courage to your people living in countries at war, may they keep alive the hope of a better future and be witnesses of peace.

Holy spirit, spirit of wisdom, inspire the hearts of all who exercise power and responsibility for people's of the earth. Amen

*Instrumental prayer is offered.*

*Leader: Prayers are offered now for others, self, the world, and all creation either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.*

Brothers and Sisters: God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as
ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,

Hear our prayer.

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.
God of fellowship and equality,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a reverence of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and wanderers,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God’s loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

God of comfort and healing,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God’s grace.

God of absolution and mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected.

God of children and families,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love.
God of outreach and restoration,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,
Hear our prayer.

Leader: Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Silence

ALL

God of peace,
let us your people know,
that at the heart of turbulence
there is an inner calm that comes
from faith in you.
Keep us from being content with things as they are,
that from this central peace
there may come a creative compassion,
a thirst for justice,
and a willingness to give of ourselves
in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

(New Zealand Prayer Book, 464)

Leader: In the name of the One who created us; in the name of the One who redeemed us; and in the name of the One who sustains us. Amen.
Leader: Let us go forth in peace and friendship and joy.
People: Thanks be to God. Amen! Alleluia!