BOWMAN-FRANCIS MINISTRY

AKOBEN (WAR HORN) WAR HORN IS A BYMBOLIC SUMMON OR CALL TO ARMS, READINESS AND VOLUNTEERISM

A THANKSGIVING REFLECTION: Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, giver of all good things, we come into your presence today with hearts full of gratitude. Thank you for the gift of life, for the beauty of the earth, and for the food, shelter, and our health that sustains us. Thank you for the family, friends, and community surrounding us, whose love and support bring joy to our days. Open our eyes to your presence among us, open our hearts to your love and guide our steps as we share our blessings with others. Amen.

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth
https://youtu.be/VXXahioF4GY?si=RAX4twKZTN2J4tpw

Prayers of the Faithful
Leader: Today, as we joyfully thank God for all the blessings we have been given, we ask continued blessings on ourselves, our family, our community and our world. With gratefulness for the comfort and security of our homes. We ask that the hungry will be fed and the homeless will be given warm shelter.

Petition
For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies.
Petition
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies, over and around us lies. Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.
Petition
For the beauty of each hour, of the day and of the night. Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light, sun and moon and stars of light. Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.
Petition
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child. Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, for all gentle thoughts and mild. Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.
Petition
For each perfect gift of Thine, to our race so freely given. Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven, flowers of earth and buds of heaven. Lord of all, to Thee we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise, this our joyful hymn of praise.
Petition
With gratefulness for the freedom we experience in this country, we ask that people of all nations will come to experience peace and the absence war and oppression.
Petition

With gratefulness for the goods of the earth and the richness of nature, we ask that the earth will be cared for so that it will continue to sustain life for us and for future generations.

Petition

With gratefulness for the love, we share in our families, community and friends, we ask that the lonely and those who are ignored will be blessed with loving companions.

Petition

With gratefulness for good health, we ask that those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit be comforted by the healing power of God.

Petition

With gratefulness for the mercy God has shown us we offer those unwritten prayers that we hold in our hearts. Especially those who have died and now know the joy and peace of the Resurrection.

It is amazing isn't it how we can miss so much of life. The key to gratitude is surprise. When we lose our sensitivity to wonder and awe, when we simply trudge or zoom through the days, we can so easily miss the daily gifts of life. When we awaken to what is within us and around us, when we savor, relish, and taste life fresh each day, our heart holds much more gratitude for our blessings.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the Sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

Readings:

Isaiah 55:10-12

Reflection/Sharing:

What helps me each day to be more aware of God's blessings in my life? How can I share these blessings with those around me?

Psalm 100

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Closing Prayer:

Creator of the seasons, thank you for all that Autumn teaches me. Change my focus so that I see not only what I am leaving behind but also the harvest and plenitude that my life holds. May my heart grow freer and my life more peaceful as I respond to the teachings this season offers me. Amen