

SENDING PRAYER:

In the Parish Hall:

Sung by all

We Are Called *(David Haas)*

(accompanied by audio from YouTube video [youtube.com/watch?v=jgomtlc1_yc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgomtlc1_yc) Notre Dame Folk Choir)

READER: EILEEN EDWARDS

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (12:11-13a)

(Brothers and sisters:)

Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive.

Serve the Lord.

When you hope, be joyful.

When you suffer, be patient.

When you pray, be faithful.

Share with God's people who are in need.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

LEADER:

Reflection question:

What are you going to bring to this new ministry year that will help to kindle the fire of love?

Invitation to journey in quiet to Church with the question in your heart,
getting your candle lit on the way.

In the Worship Space:

LEADER:

You have been called by the Spirit into service.
You have been enlightened by God's Word.
You have a share in the glory of God's Son.

Stand now and declare your willingness to serve God's people.

CINDEE:

We ask you,
along with your brothers and sisters here standing,
to respond "I am" to indicate your intentions for your ministry this year.

Are you ready to serve as light in the world
and willing to give of yourself?

ALL: I AM.

BARBARA:

Are you prepared to act in ways of stewardship of what has been entrusted
to you?

ALL: I AM.

CARLA:

Will you rely on God's grace
so that you may help all God's people in your care to grow in faith, hope,
and love?

ALL: I AM.

LEADER:

May God strengthen us all in the resolve we have declared.

Confident in the power of prayer to transform us,
we bring our needs to God who hears and answers us:

READER: MELISSA VARSO

Our response will be **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

God of all creation, we long for a world transformed by peace and bound together in love.
Fill us with hope, and remind us to turn to you with our needs and our prayers.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

Strengthen and multiply those called to Church ministry,
and show us how to support and encourage each other’s work.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

Give us a sense of urgency and passion as we proclaim the holy Gospel.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

Give us courage to speak the truth and to stand firm in our call for justice.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

Open us to listen to others with a spirit of compassion and empathy.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

Remind us of the ways we can serve those in our midst who are overlooked, ignored, or rejected.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

May your Holy Spirit guide our hearts and our lips,
so that we may remain constant in our love and praise for you.
For this we pray: **“Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”**

LEADER:

Lord of faithfulness and hope,
strengthen us, your servants, in our dedication to ministry.
Grant that we always strive to share with others
the light that we ourselves have derived from keeping your Word in our hearts.
Let us gladly join each other and those in our care
to bring your light to the world.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R/. Amen.**

God has created us in love.
May he make us enlightened witnesses to the Gospel. **R/. Amen.**

God has redeemed us in mercy.
May he give us grace that our actions and our words shine with compassion. **R/. Amen.**

God has sustained us in hope.

May he strengthen us to glow with the promise of eternal glory. **R/. Amen.**

And may almighty God bless us all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **R/. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: Christ, Be Our Light (Bernadette Farrell) Hymnal #596