

WELCOME**GATHERING SONG***For All the Faithful Women*

#419

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your pow'r to save.

For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death,
we praise you, God of Israel, and pray for hearts set free
to bind ourselves to others in love and loyalty.

All praise to God the Father! All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise to God the Spirit, who binds the church as one!
With saints who went before us, with saints who witness still,
we sing glad alleluias and strive to do your will.

OPENING PRAYER

Join me in prayer: **Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE*Ruth 1: 12-19*

¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons,
¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!” ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

MONOLOGUE*Ruth*

PRAYERS

Let us pray. Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

... Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Creator who fashions us together with all things, the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community, the Comforter who holds us in the communion of saints, one God + bless you now and always. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

God of the Sparrow

#740

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature say Woe How does the creature say Save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks

**God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life**

**God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace**

**God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, stay safe and be safe, joined together in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**