



Reader 3: In the people who will find
your doorway,
Stay awhile, and walk away
Knowing that they too can
find a dream

There will be sun-filled days
And sometimes it will rain
A little variety!
Both come from Me
So come now!
Be content!
It is My dream you dream,
My house you build,
My caring you witness,
My love you dream".

—Charles Péguy

Concluding Prayer

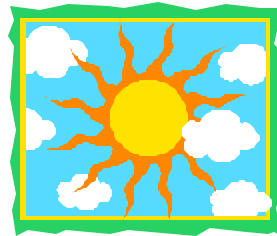


O God, who created us,
Fill our minds with knowledge
and appreciation of the dream
With which and for which
You created us.

O God, who created us,
Fill our hearts with courage
to take the risks
And pay the price that
will make this dream come true.

O God, who created us,
breathed life and energy
into our hands,
May we always
find joy in dreaming
Your dream into reality.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



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GOD'S DREAM

A Liturgy for the New School Year



"God ever new, as this
new year brings new
projects and possibilities,
we are in need of energy
and renewed hope..."

-Donal Harrington and Julie Kavanagh

*Adapted from
Prayers for Parish Groups
by Donal Harrington and
Julie Kavanagh*

Opening Prayer

God of faithfulness,
God ever new,
As this new year
brings new projects
and possibilities,
we are in need of
energy and renewed hope.
Wondering what change
are we able to effect
By our words and actions
and prayers,
We need Your grace
to guide our hearts.

We need the power of
Your Son
to rekindle and
sustain our passion.
We need the wisdom of
Your Spirit to see the
ever-present possibility
For change and conversion,
for growth and
transformation.

Give us eyes of faith,
that we might see
the wonders
in our midst,
That we might have
the courage to hope.

Amen.



Scripture Reading: John 20:19-23

Let us listen to the words from the Gospel of St. John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



Dream God's Dream

Reader 1: And the Lord God said,
"I myself will dream
a dream within you
Good dreams come from Me,
you know
My dreams seem impossible
Not too practical
Not for the cautious
man or woman
A little risky sometimes
Some of my friends prefer to rest more
comfortably
In sounder sleep
With visionless eyes
But from those who
share my dreams..."

Reader 2: I ask a little patience
A little humour
Some small courage
And a listening heart
I will do the rest
Then they will risk
And wonder at their daring
Run and marvel at their speed
Build and stand in awe at the beauty
of their building
You will meet Me
often as you work
In your companions
who share your risk
In your friends,
who believe in you
enough
To lend their own
dreams
Their own hands
Their own hearts
To your building...

