



Mid-day Prayers  
with Members of the Gibbs Society  
of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific

May 10, 2022

*The cross above is based on the carving designed by alumna and former Board Chair Eliza Linley.  
The design is the basis for the commemorative silver CDSP crosses given to graduates,  
a custom introduced by Mabel Shires in the 1950's.*

## About Today's Service

*As we gather over Zoom, it helps to consider that the platform only supports one speaker at a time. Please leave your own microphone muted until a time is available for intercessions or conversation, when a bit of cacophony is not a bad thing.*

*There are speaking parts in the service. Any are welcome to take one of the parts when invited by the leader.*

Response (answers on behalf of the people throughout the service)  
Voices 1, 2, and 3 (leads us through the canticle, "Song of Wisdom")  
Reader (shares a short scripture reading)

# Wisdom

*Based on Daily Prayer for All Seasons, Easter*

## Terce (Traditional hour: mid-morning)

*Having asked for direction and guidance, we pray now to equip ourselves properly for the journey ahead.*

Leader Alleluia! Risen Lord, come be with us,  
Response **and teach our hearts to live in you. Alleluia!**

Leader Jesus, divine companion: As the day unfolds, give us strength to understand and eyes to see, as you teach us to walk the soft earth, related to all that lives.

Response **Amen.**

## Praise: *A Song of Wisdom* (Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21)

Voice 1 Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors \*  
a holy people and a blameless race.  
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, \*  
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.

Voice 2 To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, \*

and led them by a marvelous way;  
She was their shelter by day \*  
and a blaze of stars by night.

Voice 3

She brought them across the Red Sea, \*  
she led them through mighty waters;  
but their enemies she swallowed in the waves \*  
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.

Voice 1

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name \*  
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;  
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute \*  
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

### **Scripture — Romans 6:4**

Reader

We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that,  
just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,  
so we too might walk in newness of life.

## Meditation

Leader

These three are the treasures to strive for and prize:  
be gentle, live simply and have the humility  
to shy from the struggle to put oneself first, these are the pearls.

If mercy's abandoned by those who'd be brave,  
economy squandered by those who'd be generous,  
humility slighted by those who would lead, this is sure death.

Be gentle and you can afford to be bold,  
be frugal and so have enough to be liberal,  
be humble and thus be a leader of all, this is the way.

Through gentleness those who attack win the fight,  
and those who defend have their safety in gentleness;  
this gentleness rests in the children of God, this is their sign.

“The Song of Lau Tsu”  
from *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, W-803  
words and music by Colin Hodgetts

Leader

*Where do we ask for God's wisdom today?*

## Prayers

Leader

Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and truth.

Response

**May we walk in newness of life.**

Leader

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Response

**May we walk in newness of life.**

Leader

Let us pray together for our school, our lives, and for the concerns we carry in our hearts.

*Silence.*

Leader

Today we give thanks for the work and ministry of Mark Richardson as a scholar and as our President and Dean. We pray for blessings on Mark and Brenda Richardson as they begin the next chapter of their lives, open to your call, in companionship with each other, and surrounded by that spirit of love which you give them to share with others.

Response

**God bless and care for Mark and Brenda and for all those whom they love.**

Leader

We also pray for your blessing and enlivening grace for the members of the George and Augusta Gibbs Society who have left this earthly realm in the past fifteen months:

*Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

Leader

Strengthen us as witnesses to your love.

Response

**May we walk in newness of life.**

## Lord's Prayer

Leader            Our Father, ...

## Closing Prayer

Leader            God our Deliverer, by water and the Holy Spirit we have been buried with Christ and raised to the new life of grace: Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

Response        **Amen.**

## Going Out

Leader            Alleluia! Risen Lord, come be with us,

Response        **and teach our hearts to live in you. Alleluia!**

*In our prayers today we remember the individuals of the Gibbs Society whose deaths have occurred in this past year.*

Elizabeth H. Purdy, February 25, 2021

Rosi Edwards, October 14, 2021

Barbara S. Borsch, March 9, 2022

David W. Richardson, February 6, 2022

Charles W. Sacquety, April 4, 2021

Joan Butler Ford., December 26, 2021

Ardeen Russell Quinn, March 21, 2022

## A Tenure Marked by Transition and Change

When the Board of Trustees called the Rev. Mark Richardson, PhD, to be the President and Dean of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific it had already begun the work to address the major changes that its members saw as necessary. President and Dean Donn Morgan had invited study of what would be needed to deal with the financial constraints impacting the school. While the interim work primarily served to identify the issues and generate ideas about ways to address them, these major transitions were on the table from the first day of Dean Richardson's tenure.

Working closely with the Board and being open with faculty and staff, Dean Richardson stepped into the painful responsibility to reduce the school's expenses, mostly through reductions in the number of employees, including faculty. On the other side of the plan, Richardson worked with the faculty, trustees, and staff to boost revenue.

There were several notable steps taken to improve the financial picture for CDSP. Solar panels and high efficiency lighting helped reduce a major expense for the campus. Shires Hall was rented to UC Berkeley, and faculty and staff moved into the available rooms in Parsons Hall. A marketing and management strategy was put in place that enabled CDSP to reach the revenue projections for which Easton Hall was updated as a conference center. Management relationships with the Graduate Theological Union were renegotiated.



The most noteworthy change in these years was the development of an accredited Low Residence study program which boosted the number of students enrolled in CDSP to levels comparable to those of the 1990's.

In line with what has been happening for many seminaries and small colleges, Dean Richardson led the way for CDSP to enter into a partnership with a larger institution, lifting from CDSP the shadow of financial frailty under which it had labored for at least two decades. CDSP brings the expertise and vision to help Trinity Church Wall Street work at its goal to support leadership development in the broader Anglican communions. Trinity brings the financial resources to enable CDSP to concentrate on its core mission.

Dean Richardson has provided steady, faithful, compassionate, and resolute leadership through these many upheavals and transitions. We use this day to give thanks and pray for blessings for Mark and Brenda.

Offered by The Rev. Randal Gardner