

Opening Hymn: “Hiding Place” by Liam Lawton

*I will search in the silence for your hiding place.
In the quiet, Lord, I seek your face.*

Where can I discover the wellsprings of your love?
Is my search and seeking in vain?
How can I recover the beauty of your word?
In the silence I call out your name.

Where can I find shelter to shield me from the storm?
To find comfort, though dark be the night?
For I know that my welfare is ever in your sight.
In the shadows I long for your light.

Lead me in your footsteps along your ancient way.
Let me walk in the love of the Lord.
Your wisdom is my heart’s wealth, a blessing all our days.
In the silence I long for Your world.

Opening prayer:

Lord, of the quietness reach out and hold me.
Draw me gently into your peace.
And in the loving silence of your heart,
Attune my ears to the sounds I never listen to.

The harmony that lies in you,
The discords in the world you’ve put me in.
The laughter and the tears in other people’s lives.
Make me more sensitive to other people’s needs.

Sometimes I hear the words that others speak, but fail to grasp their meaning.
Help me to hear the worry hidden in a throw-away remark,
the fear wrapped in a joke,
the insecurity behind unbending views.
Let me identify the cry for help so casually expressed.
Help me to listen more,
To think, and think before I speak, and then to think again.
And Lord, teach me to hear sincerity in those who see and say things in a different way.
Give me the grace not to condemn or criticize,
But first to search for common ground,
And grasp the thing that draws us all together,
Not concentrate on what holds us apart.
Help me to take the richness of another’s thought
And hold it, precious as my own.

Above all, may I hear the gentle echoes of your love reflected all around me.
Give me the joy of listening to your voice, and to the quiet rustle of your arms enfolding me.

Prayer to Don Bosco:

Saint John Bosco,
Friend of the young,
Teacher in the ways of God,
Your dedication to empowering the needy
inspires us still.

Help me to work for a better world,
where the young are given the chance to flourish,
where the poor's dream for justice can come true,
and where God's compassion is shown to be real.

Intercede for me as I bring my needs to you
and to Our heavenly Mother,
the Help of Christians.

St John Bosco, Pray for us!

Final Hymn: "Here is the man" by Hugh O'Donnell SDB

Here is a man who found a way
to make the stars above our heads seem brighter
than the day;
he offered hope, he made a family of the young
by living freely, spending night and day
giving life away, finding hearts ready to respond;

CHORUS:

And so we keep this memory of his life,
memory filled with joy and goodness,
reaching out to everyone,
calling us to love,
bringing us to God
with a message for the world.

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Here is a man who in his day
brought the sun to shine upon the orphan
and the stray;
his was a home, the welcome more than you could say,
his living freely, spending night and day
giving life away, finding hearts ready to respond;

CHORUS:

And so we keep

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Here is a man who came to say
that loving God in everyone would brighten
every day;
love was his plan, the laughter shining in his eyes,
his living freely, spending night and day
giving life away, finding hearts ready to respond;

CHORUS:

And so we keep