



SHELTER

Small Group Worship

Leader prays the collect: Beloved God, who, in your mercy, shelters us with your tender embrace; grant that we may know you as our one true refuge from the world of suffering, and help us to offer compassionate sanctuary to our neighbors in need; even as you dwell within and among us, one holy and undivided Trinity, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 31

Read antiphonally by half verse.

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame: *
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Leader: Without silence, words have no meaning. Listen to this poem about shelter.

[Here we suggest reading from "The Shelter" by Emily Dickinson.]

In the silence that follows, let God welcome you in. *[Silence for two minutes.]*

Prayers of the Gathered Community:

Leader: Even as we are gathered here in a place that is safe and dry, there are those who live without shelter and protection. Pray for those who lack shelter and security, either silently, or aloud.

We give God thanks for all the ways God has protected us and brought us home. Give thanks for the places you call home, either silently or aloud.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Now let us pray the words that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**