**Minister of Liturgical Environment**

**Opening Prayer**

*The opening prayer begins with the sign of the cross.*

**Invitation to Prayer:**

Leader: Let’s all take a moment of silence

here in the midst of our busy lives

in order to collect the events of today

and bring ourselves, body and soul, into this gathering.

*Pause for a moment of sacred silence.*

**Gathering Song**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 122

*I rejoiced when they said to me,*

*“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”*

*And now our feet are standing*

*within your gates, Jerusalem.*

*Jerusalem, built as a city,*

*walled round about.*

*There the tribes go up,*

*the tribes of the LORD,*

*As it was decreed for Israel,*

*to give thanks to the name of the LORD.*

*There are the thrones of justice,*

*the thrones of the house of David.*

*For the peace of Jerusalem pray:*

*“May those who love you prosper!*

*May peace be within your ramparts,*

*prosperity within your towers.”*

*For the sake of my brothers and friends I say,*

*“Peace be with you.”*

*For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,*

*I pray for your good.*

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**Prayer:**

Leader: I weave a silence on my lips.

 I weave a silence into my mind.

 I weave a silence within my heart

**ALL:** **I close my ears to distractions.**

 **I close my eyes to attentions,**

 **I close my heart to temptations.**

Leader: Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm,

 Still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.

**ALL:** **Let all the tumult within me cease,**

 **Enfold me, Lord in your peace**

**and allow me to listen to the music of your Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Blessed Lord, whose heavenly house we long to enter, give us reverence for the place where you dwell on earth. May the sharing of our gifts bring beauty and splendor to your sacred dwelling. May every work we do inspire others to glorify your Holy Name.

**ALL:** **In the name of God, Amen.**