



LEADER:

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

At the vernal equinox the sun crossed our planet’s equator and gifted us with an equal amount of daylight and darkness. We continue to move from long nights of darkness into long days of light. We enter springtime, the season when all that has been asleep in the loving arms of winter awakens. That which is dormant lifts its head upward toward the warmth of the sun. Today each seed smiles at the story of life held within its heart.

HYMN OF PROMISE

BY NATALIE SLEETH

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;

what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

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DISTRIBUTION AND BLESSING OF SEEDS

The Circle of Life, Rupp and Wiederkehr, p. 106

SILENTLY PONDER SEEDS

LEADER: Together, we say

ALL: O seeds, you will soon be dwelling in the soil. Grow deep and strong! Send your life forth into the sunlight. We celebrate the secret of spring within you.

LEADER: We too, have the potential for greater growth hidden within us.

ALL: The seeds of our hidden potential are waiting for us to encourage them to grow. We too have the potential for greater growth hidden within us.

PAUSE NOW TO BE AWARE OF ONE SEED OF GROWTH WITHIN YOU

THAT IS WAITING TO COME TO LIFE... (the seed of a talent or expertise, the seed of deeper spirituality, the seed of healing, the seed of a strengthened relationship, the seed of a new attitude...)

DISCUSSION

- What “waiting seed” in your life is yearning to grow?
 - Saint Elizabeth Seton said: “When so rich a harvest is before us, why do we not gather it? All is in our hands if we will but use it.” What do you hold in your hands that would bring in a harvest for God... and what prevents you from using it?
 - A flower will only bloom in its time. Saint Vincent DePaul said: “The works of God are not accomplished when we wish them, but whenever it pleases Him.” How can we develop the patience to live peaceably with this reality?
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MUTUAL BLESSING

- May you desire to grow and blossom.
- May what is dry in your life be watered with grace.
- May you take good care of yourself.
- May you extend compassion to all that constricts your roots within your body, mind, spirit.
- May you be patient with the time it takes to produce a new shoot.
- May you be aware of the wonders of your body, mind and spirit and their amazing capacity for life.
- May you be open to receive from those who extend kindness, care, and compassion to you.
- May you rest peacefully in the dark and nurturing earth of diving love, trusting in this gracious presence.
- May you keep hope in your heart.

ALL: O dormant seed within me, I believe in your potential. I will open the soil of my heart for you. I will warm you with my patience and trust. I will water you with droplets of faith, hope and love. Amen.

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Based on The Circle of Life by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr and on
Out of the Ordinary by Joyce Rupp

Circle of Life, p. 106

Little seeds, you are seemingly inert and lifeless, but appearances are false, for you hold an immense surprise. You hold life. within you are whiskered roots, thick green stems, and dancing leaves. All you need is a gentle hand to place you in the soil the dazzling sun to smile on you with warmth, and the moist fingers of spring clouds to awaken you with raindrops.

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