

## The Law of Love

Dear Lord,  
Teach us the Law of Love.

Teach us to be open  
when doors close.  
Teach us to be forgiving  
when we are wronged.  
Teach us to be understanding  
when we do not know.  
Teach us to be just  
when persecution reigns,  
Teach us to be truthful  
when fear clouds our vision.  
Teach us to be hopeful  
when despair infects the world.

-Les Miller



Greet one another with the kiss of peace. (16:16)

**“Forgiveness is not an emotion,  
it’s a decision.”**

**--Randall Worley**

# Spirit Of Forgiveness

Opening Prayer/ Liturgy

February 2006



## Opening Song

### Prayer of St. Francis

#### Sebastian Temple

##### Verse 1:

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

##### Verse 2:

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light,  
And where there's sadness ever joy.

##### Refrain:

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

##### Verse 3:

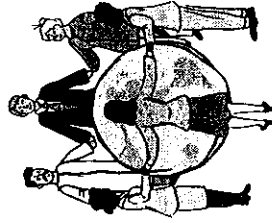
Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Scripture Reading:

John 15: 9-17

*Let us reflect on a reading from the Gospel of John.*

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. The word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.



Litany of Repentance

For our insensitivity to your creation,  
For vandalism and violence,  
For crassness and carelessness,  
*All: Forgive us, O Lord.*

For hardness and hatred,  
For cruelty and callousness,  
*All: Forgive us, O Lord.*

For baseness and blindness,  
For rebellion and ruthlessness,  
*All: Forgive us, O Lord.*

For greed and gracelessness,  
For indifference and ignorance,  
*All: Forgive us, O Lord.*

For disrespect and drabness,  
For lack of sense and laziness,  
*All: Forgive us, O Lord.*

Grace and goodness,  
Love and liveliness,  
*All: Give us, O Lord.*

Calm and carefulness,  
Generosity and goodness,  
*All: Give us, O Lord.*

Peace and prosperity,  
Hope and healthiness,  
*All: Give us, O Lord.*

Strength and security,  
Employment and enjoyment,  
*All: Give us, O Lord.*