

Peace Lamp Ritual

(Prayer for something related to the theme each week- Bodies, intimacy, singleness, hymnsing, marriage, sexual abuse, and family of God)

Leader: Listen Assembly, the Lord our God is all that is.

People: We will love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and body.

Call to worship (Could be used in some modified way each week)

All: We awaken in Christ's body

As Christ awakens our bodies.

1: I look down and my poor hand is Christ,

Christ enters my foot, and is infinitely me.

2. I move my hand, and wonderfully

My hand becomes Christ,

Becomes all of [Christ].

3. I move my foot and at once

Christ appears in a flash of lightning.

L: Do my words seem blasphemous?

--Then open your heart to Christ

And let yourself receive the one

Who is opening to you so deeply.

For if we genuinely love [Christ],

We wake up inside Christ's body

1. Where all our body all over,

Every most hidden part of it,

Is realized in joy as [Christ].

2. And everything that is hurt, everything

*That seemed to us dark, harsh, shameful,
Maimed, ugly, irreparably damaged*
3. *Is in [Christ] transformed.*

*And in [Christ], recognized as whole, as lovely,
And radiant in [Christ's] light.*

All: We awaken as the Beloved

In every last part of our body.

--excerpts from poem by St. Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022 A.D.)