

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

November 18, 2020



“Do you understand what you are reading?”

Acts 8:30 (NRSV)



ORDINARY TIME

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“LIVING WATERS”

KRISTYN GETTY & ED CASH

**Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Christ is calling
Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down
All the old gone
Rise up in these living waters

There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters

Spirit moving
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children
To the shoreline
Life is in these living waters

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Love forgiveness
Vast and boundless
Christ He is our living waters**

**There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise the Lord of living waters**

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One We come like Philip:
following the angels,
waiting for a word from the Spirit.

Many **So breathe your Word into us, O God,
that we might have boldness
to speak to the stranger on the road,
to proclaim the good news about Jesus,
to love one another.**

Let us dwell within your deep love for us.

**Let us live within the truth of Scripture:
Perfect love casts out all fear. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

“CRASHING WATERS AT CREATION”

NCH 326



1. Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion,
2. Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled
3. Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan
4. Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing,



Or - dered by the Spir - it's breath, First to wit - ness
As the cap - tives passed on through, Wash - ing off the
Closed a - round the one fore - told, O - pened to re -
Quench the thirst and flood the soul. Well - spring, Source of



day's be - gin - ning From the bright - ness of night's death.
chains of bond - age— Chan - nel to a life made new.
veal the glo - ry Ev - er new and ev - er old.
life e - ter - nal, Drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now let us come before God with words of confession:

**Loving and Gracious God, forgive us for we have gone astray from your ways.
Soften our hearts so we may come to you in contrition.**

You taught us that:

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

But we put all pride in ourselves.

Blessed are those who mourn.

But we only mourn when others are happy.

Blessed are the meek and the peacemakers.

But we rage and make wars.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But we shirk from virtue and seek malice.

Blessed are the merciful.

But we call for vengeance and wrath.

Blessed are the pure in heart.

But we cheapen our hearts with lust and dark thoughts.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

But we don't stand up for the persecuted nor the righteous.

Ever forgiving God, allow us grace to walk again in the light so we may be light to the world.

We ask this for our good and Your glory. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God forgives us and allows us to be renewed.

That is the good news and the free Grace we are given.

Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel

Many In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All Thanks be to God

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“POEM (LET US LIVE)” JOSHUA JENNIFER ESPINOZA

This piece is included to mark Trans Day of Remembrance on November 20, 2020. The Trans Lifeline is 877-565-8860. You can donate to support this essential service at: <https://translifeline.org/donate>

I'm tired of abstraction.
No one says what they mean
and people die from it.
Where did this world come from?
Not nowhere.
Not nothing.
The dead trans women
you glance over
for a few seconds on facebook
while deciding if the story is worth sharing
all came from somewhere.
Their bodies are not flowers
for you to whisper
to people you'll never know.
There were words that did this.
There were hands
and guns
and teeth
and flesh
and hair
and blood
and men
and women
and laws
and policies
and police
and witnesses
that did this.
How long can I keep tricking you

into thinking what I'm doing
is poetry
and not me begging you
to let us live?

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

ACTS 8:26-40

NRSV

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

[Pause for 1 deep breath.]

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

One We lift our prayers to You,
 O Love Above All Loves,
 and place our hearts and souls within your keeping:

Many Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach us to walk in humility and compassion, Jesus
as companions in joy and sorrow with all the earth,
which you created in unity
for the sake of love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

You gave your life as a ransom for all, O Savior:
let us dedicate ourselves
to serving God and each other
in love and faithfulness
according to your commandment.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach us to seek the good of others, O Redeemer,
to serve rather than be served,
that we may embody your grace and mercy.
Lord hear our prayer.
By the path we take today, O God,
may we shine forth the love of God into darkness,
reconcile the world to your truth,
and proclaim your marvels as your witnesses.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Spirit of Hope, kindle your light within us,
and pour out your grace and peace
upon those for whom we pray.

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“SANCTUARY”

AAHH 462

**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Presider The Lord be with you

Many And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,
and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory
till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your only-begotten Son,
you have revealed yourself to the world.

**By the guiding of a star,
you made him known to the nations**

**as the son of David and king of Israel;
that in following him,
we might be led from darkness
and into his marvelous light.**

As children of your redeeming purpose
who celebrate the manifestation of your Son
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Parent.
In Jesus the Messiah you have come to us.
**Our hope is built on the one
in whom you are well pleased.
Having been shown to the world
as your beloved Son,
he proclaimed the good news of your kingdom.**

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
desiring to complete the work
for which he came into the world,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:
“Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

We now obey your Son's command.

**We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“AS A FIRE IS MEANT FOR BURNING”

RUTH DUCK



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm - ing flame, So the church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name.
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay.
one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hued.



Not to preach our creeds or cus - toms, But to
By our gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would
As a rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a



build a bridge of care, We join hands a - cross the
show that Christ is light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning
storm is past and gone, May our lives re - flect the



na - tions, Find - ing neigh - bors ev - 'ry - where.
Spir - it, We would live to God's de - light.
ra - diance Of God's new and glor - ious dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1985, GIA Publications, Inc.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“AS A FIRE IS MEANT FOR BURNING” INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

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Greeting: United Church of Canada, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services* (Etobicoke, Ontario: United Church Publishing House, 2000), 19.

Call to Worship: written by Joanna Harader <https://spaciousfaith.com/2012/05/02/wednesday-worship-piece-easter-5b/>, accessed June 25, 2020.

Opening Hymn: Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; 1715; adapt. and harm. by William Henry Havergal, 1793–1870, alt. Used and Reprinted with permission from OneLicense.

Prayer of Illumination: Caldwell Presbyterian Church, “Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers),” <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Poem: from *Five Poems by Joshua Jennifer Espinoza*, May 12, 2014, *PEN America*, <https://pen.org/five-poems-by-joshua-jennifer-espinoza/>, accessed November 9, 2020.

Prayers of the Community: Leslie Scoopmire, <http://abidinginhope.blogspot.com/2018/06/prayer-1979-inspired-by-matthew-2017-28.html?m=1>, Accessed and modified on 6/24/2020.

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*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.