

Lancaster Theological Seminary

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

February 03 and 06, 2021



“And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

~ 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG - SOLO

“FOR EVERY MOUNTAIN”

KURT CARR

GREETING

In the name of Jesus Christ,
who calls us to seek justice and resist evil,
to love and serve others,
let us worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

LORD, LORD, OPEN UNTO ME

HOWARD THURMAN

Presider Open unto me,
Many light for my darkness
 Open unto me,
 courage for my fear
 Open unto me,
 hope for my despair
 Open unto me,
 peace for my turmoil
 Open unto me,
 joy for my sorrow
 Open unto me,
 strength for my weakness
 Open unto me,
 wisdom for my confusion
 Open unto me,
 forgiveness for my sins
 Open unto me,
 tenderness for my toughness
 Open unto me,
 love for my hates
 Open unto me,
 Thy Self for myself
 Lord, Lord,
 Open unto me!

Oh, to be kept by Jesus, kept by the power of God.
Kept from the world unpotted, treading where Jesus trod.

Oh, to be kept by Jesus; Lord, at Thy feet I fall;
I would be nothing, nothing, nothing,
Thou shalt be all and all.

Oh, to be kept by Jesus, kept by His power divine.
Kept through toil and trials, kept by His hand in mine.

Oh, to be kept by Jesus; Lord, at Thy feet I fall;
I would be nothing, nothing, nothing,
Thou shalt be all and all.

Kept by His Holy Spirit, to me this is best of all!
I'm safe in His holy keeping, He'll ever hear my call.

Oh, to be kept by Jesus; Lord, at Thy feet I fall;
I would be nothing, nothing, nothing,
Thou shalt be all and all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now let us come before God with words of confession:

All: God of peace,

Presider: give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed, to challenge the systems of racism, so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity.

We believe racism is present

in our society and in our church, and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms and in varying degrees.

We know racism is alive

in our language and in our structures, and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design, blocking the path to justice, equity, and peace that Jesus brings.

Racism exists,

and it challenges the gospel message that we cry.

We cry abundant life for all,

knowing that we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism:

some of us are choking;

some of us cannot breathe;
some of us are dead.

We cry peace,

knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion, and God's grace.

We cry Emmanuel, God with us,

knowing that to God, every life matters—God is with all people— even though as a community and as a society we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others.

Compassionate One,

Help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries.

In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of your way crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ forgives us and sets us free to live full human lives in community. We may go forth confident of the grace to see with new eyes beyond racial prejudice; to imagine with renewed fervor justice and mercy for all, and to create with a new will a community where all are given access to God's abundant life.

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

“LINES ON LOVE’S (LOSS*)”

ERICA HUNT

Audible reading by Erica Hunt, as found at
<https://poets.org/poem/lines-loves-loss>

“Lines on Love's (Loss)’ assembles many aphoristic phrases and fragments gathered over the years into one poem. The poem reads love of many varieties—agape, romantic, communal, and spiritual—as difficult and transformative. The poem was a poem before the blanks were added, but the blanks are important to the sense I wanted to convey that art, like love, stimulates our imaginations through open forms. I use the word ‘apophatic’ to signal how poetic art marks deep ‘truths’ as powerfully as direct citation through sound (music) and form.”*

—Erica Hunt

**For Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Please, join me in prayer.

O God,
you spoke your Word
and revealed your Good News in Jesus, the Christ.
Fill all creation with that Word again,
so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations
and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples,
we may become one living body,
your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

NRSV

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

SERMON

JEREMY EDWARDS (2/3) DR. MELVIN BABER (2/6)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

You are invited to write your prayers in the chat feature. The Presider will pray extemporaneously, as common in Black church tradition.

OFFERTORY

“LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER”

AAHH 686

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
My God, have mercy on me.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Presider The Lord be with you.

Many And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Many We lift our hearts to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Many It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider Beloveds. Beloveds. Beloveds.

We come to this Table because we are claimed in covenant
Because we are still learning what covenant and togetherness means
how it looks and moves and feels

**Many Because we long for liberation
Because we thirst for justice
Because we know the need—fierce and urgent—
for grace and freedom and nourishment in our flesh and our bones**

Presider Because this is not a table of one faith, of one denomination;
This is Christ's table and you are invited to bring your whole lives
and all are welcome here. Period.

**Many Holy, holy God, almighty
Earth and heaven behold Your light
Blessed are You whose name is Lord
Hosanna to the highest heights**

Presider Because we remember:
On the night he was arrested
while the powers and principalities
of Empire, and supremacy, and dominance raged,
Jesus—
a brown skinned, radical, healer, community organizer—
gathered people
invited their fears and longings
invited people into radical solidarity
justice-love-in-action

healing of and in the world
to which, for which, he gave his life over and over and over.

Jesus took bread,
broke it,
shared it, and said:
Take and eat: this is my body.
The bread of new life.
Share this, and remember.

Then Jesus took the cup
blessed it
gave thanks for it, and said:
Take and drink: this is the power of my life-blood.
The salve of salvation.
The cup blessing.
Share this, and remember.

Many **Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ indeed will come again.
Christ is ever in our midst,
Alleluia, amen.**

Presider And so, we do.
We remember.
We offer.
We receive.
And we share in this nourishing feast.
Because we know how to nourish each other in ordinary and
extraordinary ways.
Because we need each other
and we need this sacrament, this visible sign of life-giving grace, flowing
and overflowing.

So, come.
Come.
Come.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

"THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS"

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in this land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

SENDING

*"I am grateful to have been loved, and to be loved now and to be able to love.
Because love liberates." — Maya Angelou*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS"

ARR. CHARITY BOOK PUTNAM

ATTRIBUTIONS

Cover Art: Leuthold, Julie. Tree of Hope, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57033> [retrieved June 11, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/julieleuthold/7521645058> - Julie.

Centering song: "For Every Mountain" written by Kurt Carr © Lilly Mack Music, Kcartunes

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Call to Worship: "Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me," - Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart", accessed June 23, 2020, <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-black-history-month1>

Opening Hymn: "Oh, to be Kept by Jesus" by Thurston Frazier. ©1966 Frazier-Cleveland Co.

Confession: a prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith, "Recommitting to Justice, Equity, and Peace, <https://www.united-church.ca/prayers/recommitting-justice-equity-and-peace>, accessed June 23, 2020

Assurance: UCC, "Lent -- Prayer of Confession: Racial Justice Sunday, First Sunday of Lent", accessed June 23, 2020, https://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways_year-c_le_lent-prayer-of-confession

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Sending Hymn: "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" by Peter Scholtes, ©1966 FEL Church Publishing, assigned 1991 to Lorenz Publishing Co.

Postlude: "They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love" by Peter Scholtes. Arranged Charity Book Putnam. This arrangement ©2008 Lorenz Publishing Co.

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL WORSHIP TEAM

Stephanie Dorsey, Jeremy Edwards, Rose Shepley, Rev. Scott Siciliano,

Hyiwot Teshome, Kellie Turner, Jennifer Weitzel, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke

Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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.