

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 21 and April 24, 2021



“When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.” -Ruth 1:18 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“GOD MY GOD”

VASHAWN MITCHELL

I know we tried to define you, attempted to describe you
It's hard to exemplify your Word
Even I call you great and there's nobody greater
But sometimes I just should call upon your Name.
In your name there is safety and security
And whosoever calls on you can be saved
Oh God, your name has so much strength
Your name alone is strong

You are God
(There's no one like you, you are God) You are God
(Your name is strong, I need you, you are) You are God
(The one and only God) God my God

Heaven and earth shall pass away
But your name will remain
And everyone will declare that you are God
Yes heaven and earth shall pass away
But your name will remain
And everyone will declare that you are God

CALL TO WORSHIP

Risen Christ,
Your presence fills the cosmos!
Cosmic Christ,
**Your presence pulses
through all galactic space
across light years of time.**
Living Christ,
**In this nano-second we call ‘now’,
in this nano-space we call ‘here’,**
Make your presence felt among us.
Yes, make your presence felt!

Amen.

OPENING SONG

“I KNOW WHO I AM”

SINACH

We are a chosen generation
We've been called forth to show His excellence
All I require for life, God has given me
And I know who I am

I know who God says I am, what He says I am
Where He says I'm at, I know who I am
I know who God says I am, what He says I am
Where He says I'm at, I know who I am
I'm working in power, I'm working miracles
I live a life of favor, 'cuz I know who I am
I'm working in power, I'm working miracles
I live a life of favor, 'cuz I know who I am

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We gather as the body of faith seeking forgiveness.

**Beloved Companion,
you deal with us kindly in steadfast love,
lifting up those bent low with care
and sustaining the weak and oppressed.
Release us from our anxious fears,
that we, holding fast to your commandments,
may honor you with all that we are and all that we have.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Presider God gathers the whole universe,
A radiant presence,
and continually reveals Jesus as our redeemer.
God, through Jesus, heals all wounds,
makes whole all that is broken,
speaks truth to all illusion,
and sheds light in every darkness.

We are all forgiven.

Many Amen

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ours is a hope that rises victorious. May we all know the peace of those born of the tomb. May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Let us share this peace with one another. You are invited to pass the peace by waving or typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Service of the Word

POEM

“DARING GREATLY”

BY BRENE BROWN

(EXCERPTS)

“IT IS NOT THE CRITIC WHO COUNTS; NOT THE MAN WHO POINTS OUT HOW THE STRONG MAN [OR WOMAN] STUMBLES, OR WHERE THE DOER OF DEEDS COULD HAVE DONE THEM BETTER.

THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THE MAN [OR WOMAN] WHO IS ACTUALLY IN THE ARENA, WHOSE FACE IS MARRED BY DUST AND SWEAT AND BLOOD; WHO STRIVES VALIANTLY; WHO ERRS, WHO COMES SHORT AGAIN AND AGAIN,

BECAUSE THERE IS NO EFFORT WITHOUT ERROR AND SHORTCOMING; BUT WHO DOES ACTUALLY STRIVE TO DO THE DEEDS; WHO KNOWS GREAT ENTHUSIASMS, THE GREAT DEVOTIONS; WHO SPENDS HIMSELF IN A WORTHY CAUSE;

WHO AT THE BEST KNOWS IN THE END THE TRIUMPH OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT, AND WHO AT THE WORST, IF HE [OR SHE] FAILS, AT LEAST FAILS WHILE DARING GREATLY...”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Providing God, you journeyed with Ruth and comforted Hannah when their lives were burdened by grief. Grant us faith to believe you will provide a future where we see none, that bitterness may turn to joy and barrenness may bear life. Amen.

A reading from the book of Ruth, chapter 1:

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah.

They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

‘Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her,

‘No, we will return with you to your people.’ But Naomi said, ‘Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would

you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.'

Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!'

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?' She said to them, 'Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?'

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

CHANDOLA TILLMAN (4/21), KEVIN LONG (4/24)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

As we celebrate our place in the cosmos.

Christ, have mercy.

As we connect with our worlds in the cosmos.

Christ, have mercy.

As we care for our corner of the cosmos.

Christ, have mercy.

God, our Creator, as we reflect on the mysteries of the cosmos, we celebrate the wondrous design of the universe and the Wisdom that guides its course.

**Help us to discern how we are connected
with living members of the cosmic community.**

**Teach us to sense the presence of the cosmic Christ, whose presence
fills and reconciles all forces in creation. Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“ALPHA & OMEGA”

ERASMUS MUTANBIRA

You are Alpha and Omega
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

We give You all the glory
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Creator be with you and all creation!

And also with you!

Open your hearts!

We open them to our Creator!

Let us give thanks to our Creator!

It is right to join the cosmos in thanking God!

God our Creator, source of everything in the universe, we bring before you this day, bread and wine and with it we bring before you the whole cosmos to say:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Thank you for joining the web of creation
for living and dying among us
to redeem us and all creation:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Thank you for rising to life
permeating the cosmos with your Spirit
to sustain and heal all things:

Thank you, God, thank you!

Therefore with voices of thanks
echoing through the cosmos
from the first day of creation
until this very moment in time,
we praise and thank you saying:

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of all life!
The cosmos is filled with your presence!

We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying
“Take and eat: for this is my body.”

And after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said “Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God.
Share this bread and this cup in memory of me.”

Come now, Holy Spirit of God—As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and this cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join our voices in thanksgiving for this meal.

We thank you Christ, for the meal we have celebrated with you and we pray that through your body and blood we may be healed and become agents of healing for Earth as a precious planet in our cosmos. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“ALWAYS REMEMBER”

ANDRAE CROUCH

Always remember Jesus, Jesus.
Always remember Jesus, Jesus.
Always keep Him on your mind.

BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

We remember moments of wonder,
sensing the infinite world of space,
connecting with endless networks in time
and feeling the mystery of the moment.

We remember and rejoice.
Thank you, God, for making us aware
of our special place in your web of creation.

Cover Art: Swanson, John August. Story of Ruth, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56561> [retrieved July 5, 2020]. Original source: www.JohnAugustSwanson.com - copyright 1991 by John August Swanson.

Centering Song: “God My God” by Vashawn Mitchell ©UMG (on behalf of Motown Gospel (EGS)); LatinAutorPerf, Capitol CMG Publishing,

Call to Worship: “Cosmos Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgycosmos-sunday-1.pdf>

Opening Song: “I Know Who I Am” by Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu © 2013 Integrity Music Europe (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) CCLI Song # 7115745

Prayers of Confession & Assurance: The Revised Common Lectionary, 2002. Adapted for Santee Chapel. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=227> and The Revised Common Lectionary, 2002. Adapted for Santee Chapel. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=112>

Poem: Excerpt from Brene Brown’s *Daring Greatly*, (New York: Avery, 2012), 1 - from Theodore Roosevelt.

Prayer of Illumination: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/prayers.php?id=227>, accessed July 5, 2020, *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

Prayer of the Community: “Cosmos Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgycosmos-sunday-1.pdf>.

Offertory Song: “Alpha & Omega” by Erasmus Mutanbira CCLI Song # 4654148 © 2005 Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook)) Sound Of The New Breed (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (Integrity Music, David C Cook))

Communion Liturgy: “Cosmos Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgycosmos-sunday-1.pdf>

Closing Hymn: “Always Remember” by Andrae Crouch ©Crouch Music (ASCAP)

Sending: “Cosmos Sunday 2018.” Season of Creation, 2010. <https://seasonofcreation.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/liturgycosmos-sunday-1.pdf>

***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.