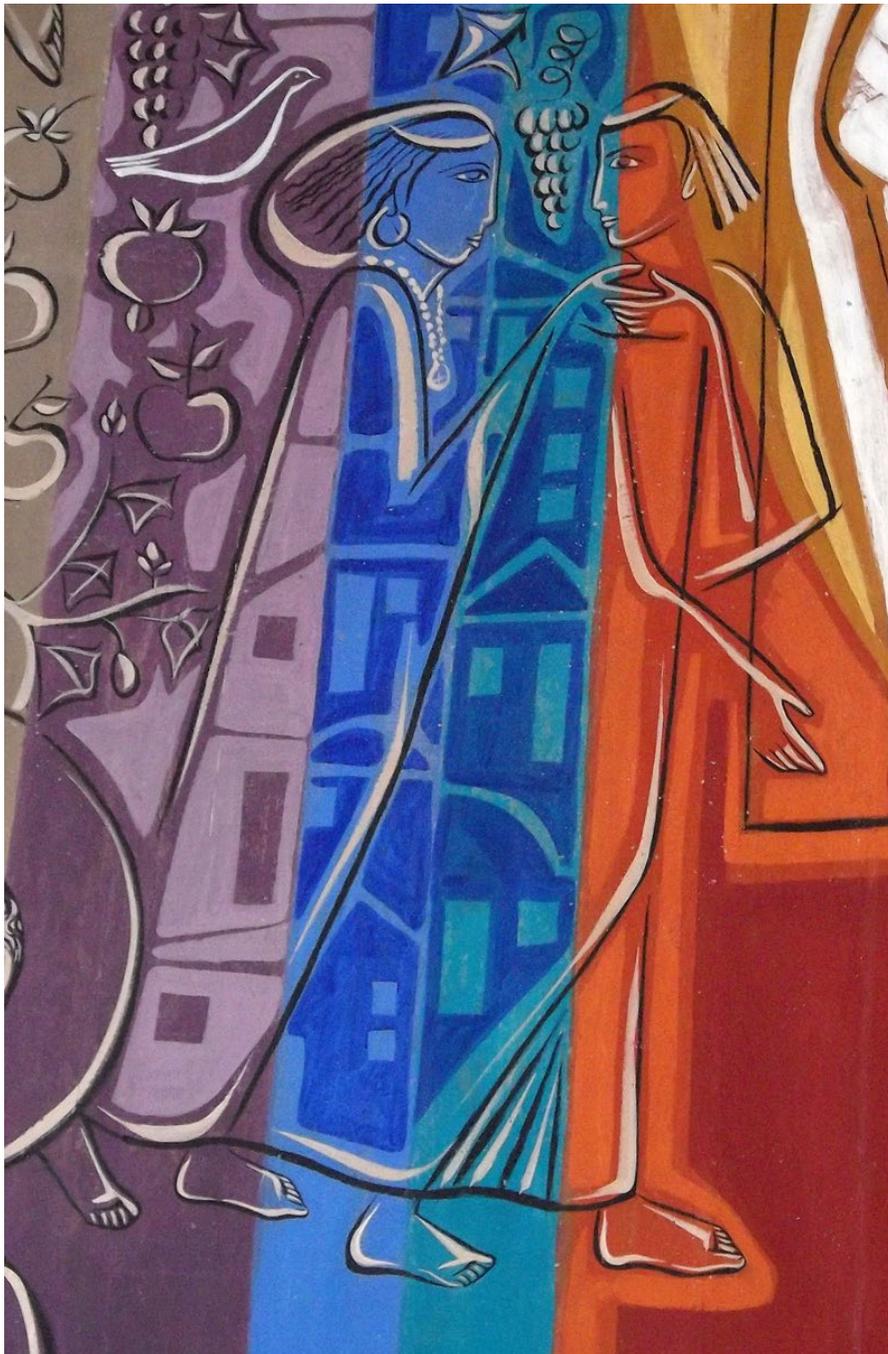


SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 28 and May 1, 2021



*“Your cheeks are comely with ornaments,
your neck with strings of jewels.” -Song of Songs 1:10 (NRSV)*



Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

AAHH 580

“I Love You, Lord, Today”

I love You. I love You. I love You, Lord, today
because You care for me in such a special way.
And yes I praise You. I lift You up.
I magnify Your Name. That’s why my heart is filled with praise.

My heart, my mind, my soul belong to You.
You paid the price for me way back on Calvary.
And yes I praise You. I lift You up.
I magnify Your Name. That’s why my heart is filled with praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God is the One who creates and sustains love

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God’s presence.

Christ, we come to into your presence today,
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

Holy! Holy! Holy!

Earth is filled with God’s presence.

In the name of the Creator of all flora and fauna,
Of every person and every place,
In the name of Christ, the lamb of God,
and the name of the Spirit, the breath in all life,

Let us gather together and worship!

OPENING HYMN

“IN THE GARDEN”

UMH 314

1. I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,

and the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

(Refrain)

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing.

(Refrain)

3. I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling.

(Refrain)

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

We gather as the body of faith seeking forgiveness.
We believe that God creates all things,
renews all things and celebrates all things.

**Yet, we participate in the destruction of things
And we do not celebrate all things.**

We believe Earth is a sanctuary,
a sacred planet filled with God's presence,
a home for us to share with our loved ones and Your beloveds.

**Yet, we desecrate our planet
And refuse to share the bounty of your creation.**

We believe that the risen Jesus
is the Christ at the core of creation
reconciling all things to God,
renewing all creation and filling the cosmos.

**Yet, we do not treat creation and the cosmos
As we would the risen Jesus Christ.**

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation
groans in empathy with a suffering creation,
and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

**Forgive us and help us be co-creators
With you, Holy One. Amen.**

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.

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

BY RUTH HALEY BARTEN

Trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally

Impatient in everything to reach the end
Without delay.
We should like to skip
The intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
To something unknown,
Something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
That is made by passing through
Some stages of instability -
And that it may take a very long time...
Your ideas mature gradually -
Let them grow,
Let them shape themselves,
Without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
As though you could be today
What time (that is to say, grace and
Circumstances acting on your own good will)
Will make them tomorrow.
Only God could say what this new spirit,
Gradually forming within you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
That his hand is leading you,
And accepting the anxiety
Of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

SONG OF SONGS 1:10-17

NRSV

A reading from Song of Songs, chapter 1, verses 10 through 17:

Your cheeks are comely with ornaments, your neck with strings of jewels. We will make you ornaments of gold, studded with silver.

While the king was on his couch, my nard gave forth its fragrance. My beloved is to me a bag of myrrh that lies between my breasts. My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En-gedi.

Ah, you are beautiful, my love; ah, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves. Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly lovely. Our couch is green; the beams of our house are cedar, our rafters are pine.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

DEAN VANESSA LOVELACE (4/28) AND (5/1)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

As we celebrate our place in the created order,
Christ, have mercy.

As we connect with Your creation 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 see your presence, not only in human history but also in
the stories of our connections in creation.**

Teach us to hear the good news of God's loving care ringing
through the creatures of the wild. Rejoicing with the henna blossoms and
the doves.

**Rejoice with us as we behold the mysteries
of your Wisdom implanted in all life.**

In the name of Christ who fills heaven and Earth.

Amen

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“PRECIOUS JESUS”

AAHH 576

Precious Jesus, how I love You.
How I lift high my voice with Your praise.
Holy Spirit, I implore Thee,
drench my heart as my lips part Your grace.
Precious Jesus, how I love You.
How I lift high my voice with Your praise.
Holy Spirit, I implore Thee,
drench my heart as my lips part Your grace.
I am persuaded, Lord, to love You.
I have been changed to bless Your name.
I am constrained by this great gospel,
for ever to worship Thee.

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

“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY”

NCH 522

VERSES 1 & 4

I love to tell the story of unseen things above;
of Jesus' radiant glory, of Jesus' endless love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory,
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love!

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when I sing in glory, I know the new, new song
will be the old, old story that I have loved so long!
I love to tell the story; and when I am in glory,
I'll tell the old, old story of Jesus' endless love!

BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's Wisdom sustaining this planet
and the pulsing of Christ deep within you.

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Virgin%27s_Monastery_\(benedictine_nuns\),_Petr%C3%B3polis,_Rio_de_Janeiro_State,_Brazil10.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Virgin%27s_Monastery_(benedictine_nuns),_Petr%C3%B3polis,_Rio_de_Janeiro_State,_Brazil10.JPG) - Eugenio Hansen.

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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.