



“..you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself: There is no other commandment greater than these.”

~ Mark 12:30-31 (NRSV)



“Ang Pababago: Peace-Love,” by Jose Datuin, circa 21 century.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” vs. 1

UMH 64

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

S. Minister Holy One, Holy Three,
when we worship together in Your many names,
You are among us.

**When two or three gather in Your name,
Your peace and presence are upon us.**

Gather us in, God, that we may learn the wisdom of Your ways:
to give, feed, visit, welcome, see, clothe.

**Teach us to be loving with one another.
Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

“AMAZING GRACE” vs. 1, 2, & 3

NCH 547

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

The baptismal font reminds us of God’s promise of cleansing and forgiveness. In that confidence, let us lift our voices in a prayer of confession.

Like the disciples, we sometimes seek our own gain at the expense of others. Too often, we are preoccupied with our own rank and status; we wonder how we measure up and judge others in the process. We want our faith to be deep and unshakeable, but we struggle to trust. We put limits around grace and fail to love as freely and whole-heartedly as we’d like.

Hear the Good News: God calls to us with a tender voice and arms outstretched. Love is reaching out for you!

Love is reaching out for you!

We are not beyond where God’s love extends.

Love makes all things new.

Alleluia! Amen.

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“I SAW A GREAT LIGHT COME DOWN OVER LONDON”

RAMSAY

In this poem, we see a great light, a great awakening, descend upon people going about their normal day. As we see each other in this new light, we are dazzled and amazed by our oneness and our connectedness.

READER

I saw a great light come down over London,
And buildings and cars and people were still
They were held wherever they were under the sky's
Clear humming radiance as it descended—

Everywhere, in shops, behind desks and on trains
Everything stopped as the stillness came down
And touched the crown of our heads
As our eyes closed, and the sky filled us
And our minds became the sky—

And everyone, regardless of crime, class or creed
Was touched; as slowly we began to stir
Out of this penetrated light-filled sleep
Dizzily as the hand completed its dialing,
And the train lurched forward
And I saw faces looking at one another questioning,
I saw people meeting eye to eye and standing
Half amazed by each other's presence

I saw their mouths silently shaping the word why
Why didn't we know this? and yet knowing
They already knew, and without words
We all stood searching for the gesture
That would say it—
As the lights went green, and we drove on.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

God who inspires, may the reading of the word be full of your spirit. And may the hearing of the word dance in our ears, stir in our hearts, and draw us closer to you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 12:28-34

NRSV

READER

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark, chapter 12, verses 28 through 34.

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”

S. MINISTER

Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

READER

Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself;—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

S. Minister

When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

READER

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

RYAN TOBIN

Spirit of Life and Love,

We live in a fragmented world that tempts us to despair.

**We would put it back together, piece by piece if it were ours to choose
But sometimes the fragments are enough.**

In a world of cruelty, there is still power in every act of kindness.

In a time of doubt, there is still power in every act of hope.

In an age of division, there is still power in every act of unity.

**May we remember that sometimes the fragments of meaning we
make are just the right size to hold in our hand. Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE”

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider The Lord is here.

God’s Spirit is with us.

S. Minister

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

S. Minister

It is our duty and our joy
to give you thanks and praise, O God,
creator and sustainer of the universe.

We give you thanks

for sun and sea and sky, for bush and birds,

for phases of the moon, for stars at night,

and planets in their courses.

All you make is very good.

For the universe we praise you

we worship and adore you.

Presider We give you thanks
for our creation and our calling,
for friendship and community,
for love and laughter,
tears and pain of growth.
For your gift of life we praise you
we worship and adore you.

We give you thanks with those
who went before us,
with saints and martyrs,
evangelists and prophets.

Presider With all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
from every culture, land and tongue,
we praise you, giving voice to every creature,
as we join the never ending hymn:

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

S. Minister Blessed are you, most Holy, in Jesus Christ,
who came among us as a servant and a friend
to reconcile us to yourself.
We thank you for that life of love,
the good news of your reign,
and the promise of a banquet
where all your children shall be free.
For your gift of Christ we praise you
we worship and adore you.

Presider To you indeed be glory, almighty God,
because on the night before he died,
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood
poured out for you;
do this as often as you drink it
to remember me.

For new life in Christ we praise you
we worship and adore you.
Therefore, loving God,
recalling now Christ's death and resurrection,
we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and our celebration,
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son
and be filled with your life and goodness.

Strengthen us to do your work,
and to be your body in the world.
Unite us in Christ
and give us your peace.
Bless now the memory of departed ones
whose names are written in this book of remembrance.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. (Or take a cup that already has a piece of gluten-free bread in it, or take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing.) A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an ecumenical prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the preacher at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

For anyone for whom kneeling is part of your tradition, there are folding kneelers behind most chairs.

COMMUNION SONG "GOD YOUR LOVE AND CARE SURROUND US" TEXT BY CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

(to the tune of "Beach Spring")

God, your love and care surround us every moment, every day.

Now we gather to remember one who followed Jesus' way.

Grateful for this life you've given, now we give it back to you,

Trusting your eternal promise: "I am making all things new!"

As an ordinary pebble tossed upon a quiet pond

Sends out rings of rippling waters, moving waters far beyond —

So we touch the lives of others; We are moved by how they live.

Help us, in our joy, remember; help us, in our pain, forgive.

We hold onto what you promise: Earth and heav'n will be made new.

Then your home will be among us; we will always dwell with you.

There will be no sound of weeping; you will wipe away each tear.

God, we trust your promise to us: Now and always, you are here.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father,
now and forever. Amen.

S. Minister For the peace of Christ we praise you
we worship and adore you.

Through Christ our Redeemer,
in the power of the Spirit,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honor and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and forever. Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY” vs. 4

UMH 64

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Listen to God; Bridge the chasm.

Book of Remembrance

There is a book of remembrance on the table at the entrance to the chapel. Feel free to write the names of any loved ones you have lost in the past year. The book is brought up to the altar and blessed along with the communion elements all through the month of November.

You are welcome to keep your bulletin, but if you do not wish to keep it please place it on the table at the entrance to the chapel as you leave.

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Prayers of the Community: Friedman, Lisa. Reading No. 99. In *Lifting Our Voices: Readings in the Living Tradition*, 33. Boston, MA: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2015.

Poem: Ramsay, Jay. "I saw a great light come down over London." Poem. In *the Longing In Between: Sacred Poetry From Around the World (A Poetry Chaikhana Anthology)*, edited by Ivan M. Granger, 112. Poetry Chaikhana, 2014.

Communion Liturgy: This text is authorised for use in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia as it is consistent with A Form for Ordering the Eucharist (NZPB p.511-514).

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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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.*