

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 25 and 26, 2022



Temple of Apollo at Corinth

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“I HEARD MY MOTHER SAY” vs. 1 & 4

NCH 409

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

STUDENT MINISTER

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

“NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD” vs. 1 & 2

UMH 102

***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. Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

STUDENT MINISTER

Becca Stevens is the president of Thistle Farms, a restorative program for survivors of human trafficking in Nashville, and an Episcopal priest. She suggests, “Speaking peace into this harsh world is hard. It makes it harder when you have to speak about not what you believe, but what you hope to believe. The words you use are spoken knowing that if we pray the words over and over, it will help form what we believe.” Let us now speak peace to one another.

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor, such as hand on heart, “namaste” hands, bow, shake hands, hug, or a way of your own choosing.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

THE WOODLICE

ARACELIS GIRMAY

This poem digs into the innocent joy of the people that Paul and the other travelers encounter and the need to guide them along and teach them the truth.

The beauty of one sister
who loved them so
she smuggled the woodlice
into her pockets & then into
the house, after a day’s work
of digging in the yard,
& after the older ones of us
had fed her & washed,
she carried them into
the bed with her, to mother
them, so that they would have
two blankets & be warm, for
this is what she knew of love,
& the beloveds emerged one
by one from their defenses, unfolding
themselves across the bed’s white sheet
like they did over 400 years ago, carried
from that other moonlight,
accidentally, or by children, into
the ship’s dark hold, slowly
adapting to the new rooms
of cloths, then fields, & we,
the elders to that sister,
we, having seen strangers
in our house before, we, being
older, being more ugly & afraid,
we began, then, to teach her the lessons
of dirt & fear.

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING**ACTS 18:18-28****NRSV**

A reading from the book of Acts, chapter 18, verses 18 through 28. After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow. When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion with the Jews. When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; but on taking leave of them, he said, "I will return to you, if God wills." Then he set sail from Ephesus. When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. After spending some time there he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON**JANE DUTTON (23-MAR)****MARY MERRIMAN (26-MAR)**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Holy Trinity, One God, accept our thanks and praise for all the blessings of this life, especially for those blessings that our present circumstances may make difficult to see.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Shed the light of your healing love on all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, that they may find new wholeness illumined by your grace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Knit together in your love all whose relationships have frayed, that they may find reconciliation and new beginnings.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless all who work to improve the health of others that they may bring hope, care, wisdom, and skill to all they serve.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Hold in the palm of your hand all who are near death and all who care for them, that they may know the peace that passes all understanding.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant all who turn to you the courage to participate with you in restoring this broken world to wholeness that everyone and everything may share in the hope of your kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For these and for all other petitions that are too deep for words, we pray to you.

Lord, hear our prayer.

You are the Lord whose promises never cease.

You are the Lord whose presence never fails.

At this time, we invite your prayers of thanksgiving or concern either silently or aloud.

Gracious God, you are close to us no matter how far we feel from you: draw us into the very heart of your grace and help us to live into the truth that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings, this is the mighty feast, the joyful feast, the holy feast of and for the people of God. Our Savior invites all who trust him to come.

The Lord be with you.

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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and a good thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of heaven and earth. With your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God of all.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

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 God, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRISIDER

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 interfaith 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.

COMMUNION SONG "LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER"

UMH #618

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRISIDER

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNG TO THE TUNE HYMN TO JOY

*BENEDICTION

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

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Listen to God; Bridge the chasm.

*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.*

Cover Art: <https://readingacts.com/2019/03/20/acts-18-why-corinth/>

Call to Worship: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. "Sixth Sunday After Pentecost."
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/607c90266c825f43a95bd4f3/t/60e06e1a7ef3c35acbf32671/1625320988082/2021-07-04+Liturgy.pdf>

Confession and Words of Assurance: <https://stdavidschurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Evening-Prayer-Bulletin-for-Wednesday-081220-LIVESTREAM-PDF.pdf>

Peace of Christ Action: Jordan, Donald. "The Quote Book." *Most Hopeful* (blog). Accessed July 15, 2021.
<https://mosthopeful.com/quote/>

Poem: Girmay, Aracelis. "The Woodlice." Poets.org. Accessed July 19, 2021. <https://poets.org/poem/woodlice>

Prayer for Illumination: http://www.flushingpres.org/uploads/1/2/5/7/12574707/prayer_for_illumination.pdf

Prayers of the Community: Litany of Healing, <https://stjohns-lancaster.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/September-16-2020-12PM.pdf>

Communion Liturgy and Prayer after Communion: Adapted from The Episcopal Church "The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (Expansive Language)." July 15, 2021. https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/01/Im_text_of_expansive_language_liturgies.pdf

**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.*