

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 9 and 12, 2022



*“Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more in the right than I...”*

*~ Isaiah 58:9-10 (NRSV)*



'Tamar', stained glass window by Diane-Blair Goodpasture

# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL”

BERTHIER

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

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GREETING

PRESIDER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

This moment is beautiful,

**For we have gathered.**

This moment is beautiful,

**For we have gathered in common purpose.**

This moment is beautiful,

**For we have gathered in common purpose to do important work.**

This moment is beautiful,

**For we have gathered in common purpose to do important work that only we can do.**

This moment is beautiful,

**For together we recreate the world.**

\*OPENING HYMN

“O GOD, HOW WE HAVE WANDERED” vs. 1 & 3

NCH 202

## \*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.

**Mothering God, we confess that we often wish to spend all of our time with you on the mountain top, where we are sure of your presence, where we feel connected to you. We confess that when we come down from the mountain, we often fail to go back into the world to be your hands and feet. We struggle to see you in the faces of our neighbor and we are overwhelmed by the brokenness we see in the world. Forgive us, O God, when our vision is limited and our actions do not live out our discipleship. Amen.**

Children of God, we are forgiven. As a mother nurtures and holds her babies, keeping them ever so close, so God does too. God, we trust that you will continue to inspire us and stay with us, on the mountain, and through the valleys.

## \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

STUDENT MINISTER

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

### "HER KIND"

ANN SEXTON

Anne Sexton (1928-1974) was an American poet who was known for her highly personal and confessional poetry, dealing primarily with her long battle with depression.

Reader

[Pause for 2 deep breaths.]

I have gone out, a possessed witch,  
haunting the black air, braver at night;  
dreaming evil, I have done my hitch  
over the plain houses, light by light:  
lonely thing, twelve-fingered, out of mind.  
A woman like that is not a woman, quite.  
I have been her kind.

I have found the warm caves in the woods,  
filled them with skillets, carvings, shelves,  
closets, silks, innumerable goods;  
fixed the suppers for the worms and the elves:  
whining, rearranging the disaligned.  
A woman like that is misunderstood.  
I have been her kind.

I have ridden in your cart, driver,  
waved my nude arms at villages going by,  
learning the last bright routes, survivor  
where your flames still bite my thigh  
and my ribs crack where your wheels wind.  
A woman like that is not ashamed to die.  
I have been her kind.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

May the same Spirit who inspired the writing of God's word,  
be with us today as the word is delivered, that in reading and hearing,  
we may encounter the Divine.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**GENESIS 38:1-26**

**NRSV**

Judah went down from his brothers and settled near a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; he married her and went in to her. She conceived and bore a son; and he named him Er. Again she conceived and bore a son whom she named Onan. 5 Yet again she bore a son, and she named him Shelah. She[a] was in Chezib when she bore him. 6 Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn; her name was Tamar.

But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord put him to death. Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. What he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he put him to death also.

Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, “Remain a widow in your father’s house until my son Shelah grows up”—for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father’s house. In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua’s daughter, died; when Judah’s time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheep shearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. When Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,” she put off her widow’s garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. He went over to her at the roadside, and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” He answered, “I will send you a kid from the flock.” And she said, “Only if you give me a pledge, until you send it.” He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord, and the staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. He asked the townspeople, “Where is the temple prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?” But they said, “No prostitute has been here.” So he returned to Judah, and said, “I have not found her; moreover the townspeople said, ‘No prostitute has been here.’” Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her.” About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the whore; moreover she is pregnant as a result of whoredom.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “It was the owner of these who made me pregnant.” And she said, “Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not lie with her again.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**JENNIFER WEITZEL (MAR 9)**

**MICHELLE PRICE (MAR 12)**

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

Almighty and ever living God,  
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.  
May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often  
ignore. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and  
encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what  
we have to give.

**Amen.**

*Service of the Table*

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**“BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL”**

**INSTRUMENTAL**

**\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy of Holy Communion.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to You, Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God?

for sun and moon and stars,

for breath and life and all things good,

for your steadfast promise and your faithful love,

for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new,

every breach, repaired.

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,

we join the ancient and eternal 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.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus,  
who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire,  
to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce  
the good news of your coming realm.  
With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come,  
Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles.  
He said to them, “I will not eat this Passover again  
until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks,  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying,  
“This is my body, which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me. “  
After supper, he took a cup, saying,  
“This cup that is poured out for you  
is the new covenant in my blood.  
I will not drink of the fruit of the vine  
until the kingdom of God comes.”

With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you,  
Sharing this holy meal,  
remembering Christ’s dying and rising,  
and praying: Come Lord Jesus!  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—  
This bread, this cup, these people—  
Christ’s body and blood,  
given in love for the world.

Make us one in the Spirit,  
one in the church, and one with Christ.  
Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people,  
serving our neighbors, worshipping you alone.  
Keep us in the peace of Christ  
until you gather us at your table in glory.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,  
Now and forever.

**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 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**

**“EAT THIS BREAD”**

**UMH 628**



## *Going Forth as the Body of Christ*

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**PRESIDER**

Creating, Redeeming, and Sustaining God, we are grateful for this experience of your lovingkindness and your tender mercies. In the strength of this nourishment we go into the world to humbly do your holy work of justice, love and mercy. Blessed be, Asche, and Amen.

### **\*CLOSING SONG**

**“I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY” vs. 1-4**

**NCH 489**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **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.*

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**Cover Art:** <https://www.art-3000.com/picture/?iid=162975>

**Call to Worship:** <https://www.gcsrw.org/Portals/13/Site%20Migration/WHM.worship%20March%20202.pdf>

**Confession and Words of Assurance:** <https://www.gcsrw.org/Portals/13/Site%20Migration/WHM.worship%20March%20202.pdf>

**Prayers of the Community:** "Lent Prayers," author unknown. Accessed July 14, 2021, at <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/lent-prayers>.

**Poem:** <https://poets.org/poem/her-kind>

**Communion Liturgy:** Kimberly Bracken Long, Ed., *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1: Advent through Pentecost, Sept 3, 2012, pg. 198-200.*

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

**Altar Coverings:** As we commemorate Women's History month, our altar panels have been covered by the artwork of Schirlyn Kamara - [www.handzonrealisticfineart.com](http://www.handzonrealisticfineart.com). Schirlyn is a local self-taught African-American artist who works in a number of mediums. Her Santee Chapel installation "Sisters and Saints" consists of 6 wooden panels (acrylic) depicting black and brown women in various postures of prayer and praise. Painting is a spiritual discipline for Schirlyn and she hopes that her art inspires, causes people to pay closer attention to the world around them, and positively impacts their lives. We are grateful for her sharing her gifts with our community!

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**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

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Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Rev. Scott Siciiano, Beth Taylor, Rev. Kellie Turner.  
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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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.