

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

November 9 and 12, 2022



“Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to [God] all of them are alive”

~ Luke 20:38 (NRSV)



This image of freedom and letting go is reminiscent of the eternal life Jesus promises in today's scripture reading.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“I CAN ONLY IMAGINE”

BART MILLARD

Verse 1

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes will see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine
Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine (yeah)
I can only imagine

GREETING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Friends, we gather this day to celebrate life–

The life we have been given by God,

The life we share with one another in community,

The life that Jesus gives in abundance.

Let us be grateful for the joy of life,

And let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN**

“O SAVIOR, FOR THE SAINTS”

NCH 298

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

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

We are so easily confused by what the world tells us, Watching God,
that we forget the stories of faith we heard as children. We are so
fearful of tomorrow, we are not aware of your Spirit with us today.
We are so busy wondering, “what if?” or “suppose?” we cannot hear
the promises you whisper to us
So once again, Gracious God,
Have mercy on us.
You know our hearts so well–
Touch them with your grace.
You see our deepest fears–
Heal them with your peace.
You hear our secret longings–
**Speak to them of your hope. This we pray in the name of Jesus
Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

(Silent Confession)

The One who searches our broken hearts has found the way to
mend them and make us new people. The good news is that
everything God has done in Christ is for us, that we may be made
Whole.

**With kindness, and justice, God makes us new people. We will
sing our thanks through all eternity. Great is God, and greatly to
be praised! Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Service of the Word

POEM

“THE DAWN’S AWAKE!”

OTTO LELAND BOHANAN

This poem reflects “the new awakening” in eternal life Jesus promises in today’s scripture.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 20:27-38

NRSV

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

We come to you in a time of coldness and darkness,

Looking for warmth and Light

There are those whose homes are physically freezing,

And there are those whose lives are spiritually chilly.

We know that we can help warm people's homes.

We also know that you can warm people's lives.

We pray that there will be no more gloom for those who anguish

We pray that you lift away people's burdens.

We pray you remove the things that oppress from people's lives.

We pray you give courage to those who fear.

Lord your light calls us forth to serve you. Your light still shines for all to see in this world. May we continue to reflect your light in our lives, in our service, in our words, and in our deeds. **Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together

To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give thanks and praise

God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us

and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

In your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction.

Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said: “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After the meal, he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it saying: “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God - here in this chapel. Pour out your Spirit on the meal before those who gather with us virtually. Make these ordinary elements into the Sacred gift of your presence with us once again. May they awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation into a life of resurrection. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may 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 minister at the baptismal font.

For those joining us virtually, you are welcome to partake now of whatever meal you have before you.

COMMUNION SONG **“FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN”** **UMH 615**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**


God, by the bread of heaven and the cup of life, you make us one body. Bind us together by your spirit that we might live into your hopes for us, a community centered in Christ and rich in compassion, commitment, courage, and care. May it be so.

***CLOSING SONG** **“GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR OUR PEOPLE” vs. 1, 4** **NCH 376**

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*We go forth to live now, that one day we may live again.
We breathe in the Divine, trusting that these lungs will breathe forever.*

You are welcome, as always, to keep your bulletin; if you would like to recycle this bulletin, please place it on the back table as you leave Santee Chapel. 

Cover Art: Nohassi, Mohamed. "Silhouette of Person Standing on Rock Surrounded by Body of Water." *Unsplash*. 2017.
https://unsplash.com/photos/odxB5oIG_iA

Centering Song: I Can Only Imagine by Bart Millard © 2001, 2002 Simpleville Music (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]) CCLI License # 2676632

Call to Worship: Neel, Beth Merrill. "Call to Worship." *Hold Fast to What is Good* (blog).
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>

Prayers of Confession and Words of Assurance: "Prayer of Confession." *Fourth Presbyterian Church*.
<https://www.fourthchurch.org/bulletins/2009/110109b800.pdf>

Poem: Bohanan, Otto Leland. "The Dawn's Awake!" *Poets.org*. 1922. <https://poets.org/poem/dawns-awake>

Prayer for Illumination: "Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers)." *Caldwell Presbyterian Church*.
<http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: Carlisle-Wilke, Rev. Abigail. "Prayer for Epiphany 3A." *Rev Abi's Long and Winding Road* (blog). 2011.
<http://vicarofwadley.blogspot.com/2011/01/prayer-for-epiphany-3a.html>

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from "Ordinary Time." *Enfleshed*. <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

Communion Song: "For the Bread Which You Have Broken." In *The United Methodist Hymnal*. Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989.

***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.*