



"He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly."

~ Luke 46:52 (NRSV)



"She is a woman I know well—one whose strength and connection with the Holy Spirit are as apparent as her beauty, but her voice is stifled, questioned, and ignored. Narrow mindedness and fear have done their best to keep her quiet. Enough silencing her. If you'd only listen to her, you'd learn she contains multitudes." -Lauren Wright Pittman

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WE HAIL YOU GOD’S ANOINTED” vs. 1,2

NCH 104

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God of love, you are present.

We are present for you.

You have given us the gift of Creation, the gift of life, the gift of your Spirit.

We come with rejoicing, offering you the gifts you have given us.

You shower us with love.

We return your love in worship and praise. Alleluia! All glory and honor is yours. Alleluia!

*OPENING HYMN

“MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO MY GOD”

NCH 199 (vs 1, 2, 3)

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

Let us pray. God of grace, we confess that we are uprooted from your love, and that we do not know how to live.

Our spirits are bent over and unable to stand straight; our faith is weak; our vision is dark; our hearts are wounded; our desires are amiss.

Receive us with mercy, God; forgive our sin, heal our hearts, and restore our spirits, so that we may live in the present moment with joy, walking in your ways and delighting in your will.

O God, we surrender to your perfect grace.

(Silent Confession)

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve. **Alleluia! 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 (SAT. ONLY)

“TELL ME SOMETHING BETTER”

LAYTON E. WILLIAMS

This poem captures the desire for God's help and hope that everything can and will be resolved, as the scripture promises.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 1:46B-55

NRSV

SERMON

DR. LEE BARRETT

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

A poet once wrote: “No man is an island.” Our lives intersect with a host of others. Lovingly, let us now pray for them.

We pray, loving God, for the blessing of your Spirit on all kinds of people with widely diverse needs.

Your blessing, please, on the sick and those who nurse them, on workers and those who employ them, on the unemployed and those who stand by them.

Your blessing, please, on the hungry and those who feed them, on refugees and those who welcome them, on drug addicts and those who treat them, and the sorrowing and those who comfort them.

Your blessing, please. Pour your Holy Spirit on these for whom we have prayed, and also on the many who never catch our eye or make it into our prayers. Through Christ Jesus, our Divine Brother. Amen!

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

In the beginning, O God, there was only you. We lived with you, walked with you, and your presence was like the light of a thousand suns blazing. Yet we turned away from that light and walked into the dark. We hid from the glory of your fire. Our eyes were blinded by your brightness.

We look into the dark, with eyes unused to your radiance, and see an ember burning. Renew our eyes. Send us your light, O God.

Little by little you have accustomed us to the coming fire. Through Sara and Abraham, through Jacob and Isaac, through Moses and David, through Mary and Joseph, you have slowly uncovered the ember of our hope still burning. You have revealed to us Christ Jesus.

We have walked with Sara. We have walked with Abraham and your prophets. We have tried to open our eyes to the light. Help us to see again. Help us to endure the light of your coming. Send us your light, our hope and salvation. Send us your Son. Send us Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took the bread, and gave thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, "This cup is the new covenant which is in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me"

For as long as you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again. Holy Spirit, come upon these gifts and fill them with your light.

Through God and with God and in God is all glory and honor, all life and light, 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. 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC PLAYED BY JENNA DURANKO ON MARIMBA (SAT. ONLY)

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION


Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you always in God's light and grace. **Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG “MY SOUL GIVES GLORY TO MY GOD” NCH 119 (VERSES 4 & 5)

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May the blessings of Advent and Christmas empower you to be a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.*

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: Pittman, Lauren Wright. "Enough." *Art in Christian Tradition*. Vanderbilt Divinity Library. 2018.
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Prayers of Confession: Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "11th Sunday after Pentecost." *Unfolding Light* (blog). August 21, 2022.
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Passing Peace of Christ: "Introductory Words to the Peace." *The Church of England*. 2002.
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Poem: Williams, Layton E. "Tell Me Something Better." In *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, edited by Martha Spong, 10. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2020.

Prayer for Illumination: <https://silo.tips/download/prayers-for-illumination>

Prayers of the Community: Prewer, Bruce. "Prayer of Intercession." *re:Worship* (blog). 2010.
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/09/prayer-for-others-your-blessing-please.html>

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from Frenz, Lisa. "Word of God Come Be With Us: An Advent Order for Holy Communion." *Lisa's Liturgies* (blog). 20001. <https://sites.google.com/site/lisasliturgies/home/advent/advent-2001>

Sending: Adapted from "Liturgy Reflection & Benediction." *Vox Veniae*. 2011.
<https://voxveniae.com/2011/11/liturgy-reflection-benediction-11-27-11/>

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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Cam Richesson, Max Staley, Beth Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18.
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor*

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.*