

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 1 and 4, 2023



“In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, ‘I have asked him of the Lord.’”~1 Samuel 1:20(NRSV)



Elkanah and his two wives returning to Ramah

Date: 1460-1475

Artist: Master of the Feathery Cloud

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“SANCTUARY”

AAAH 462

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

We gather as God’s beloved children –

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

So this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with others –

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

“LORD JESUS, WHO THROUGH FORTY DAYS”

NCH 211 (v.1&2)

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

In the season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. In this time of silence, and in our prayer together, let us examine ourselves. We pray, first in silence.

*SILENT PRAYER

Holy God,

Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:

Hear our prayer. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, To a wholeness with each other and with You.

Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations

Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

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. Amen.

***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.

In the hush, we hear more clearly. In tranquility, we breathe more deeply. In peace, we find ourselves anew.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

“WHAT I NEED”

KENTINA WASHINGTON-LEAPHEART

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today — the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20

NRSV

SERMON

DR. ANNE THAYER

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Throughout these days of Lent, may our hearts and hands join the most vulnerable.

The Jesus of LENT walks this journey.

May our hearts and hands join those with substance use disorders.

The Jesus of HEALING walks this recovery journey.

May our hearts and hands join the lonely elderly and people experiencing homelessness.

The Jesus of COMMUNITY walks this journey.

May our hearts and hands join those trapped by poverty and inequity.

The Jesus of JUSTICE walks this journey.

Jesus, during this season of Lent, You walk with us in our struggles. We walk with You on Your journey to the cross. May we act on what we see and bring Your hope and healing to our communities and to all whom we serve.

We trust and hope in a God of compassion and peace, resurrection and life. AMEN.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy 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 gives us courage

To the One who calls us to lives of service, we give thanks and praise

From our beginning, you shaped us to live in service to one another and all the earth. You set us in the garden to co-create life with you. You surrounded us with creatures and creations that depend on our care. Our destinies have always been wrapped up in one another – our individual well-being bound to the well-being of all. Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you,

Holy, Holy, Holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Hosanna among us

Gracious One, we struggle with spirits of fear and greed that tempt us away from your original plan for us. We excuse ourselves from responsibilities to our neighbors. We struggle to believe we have anything to offer to the whole. And at times we knowingly do harm to others for the sake of our own gain.

You know our struggles, O God. And so you sent us Jesus. In him we learn how to show up for one another. Jesus lived in service to collective well-being. He sought out those in need of community. He befriended the ones who were isolated. He challenged the structures that destroy.

Through his life, you taught us that the same capacities live in us. We too can choose the way of service to collective life. You have given each of us gifts to play our part. The same spirit of courage that kept Jesus proclaiming love even in the face of death lives in us.

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.” In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts and make this bread and this cup sustenance for our lenten journey. **By your grace, may we experience anew the call you place on our lives to serve one another. In feasting at your table, may our hearts be filled with courage once again to follow Christ, come what may. 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 SONG

“FILL MY CUP LORD”

AAHH 447

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards justice. Amen.

*CLOSING SONG

“GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS”

NCH 423

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May our prayers be never ceasing.
May our hope lead to us new beginnings.*

Cover Art: Elkanah and his two wives returning to Ramah. 1460-1475 Artist: Master of the Feathery Cloud

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56671>

Centering Song: "Anointing" by Donn Thomas. © 1992 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) CCLI License # 2676632.

Call to Worship: Written by Ann Siddall. <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/calls-to-worship-on-ash-wednesday/>

Confession and Words of Assurance: *Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog "Hold Fast to What is Good." Used with permission and adapted.* <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>

Prayer for Illumination: http://www.valleypresct.org/uploads/8/0/1/6/80162/prayers_for_illumination.pdf

Prayers of the Community: <https://www.fapc.org/prayers-of-the-people>

Poem: Washington-Leapheart, Kentina. "What I Need." In *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*, edited by Martha Spong. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2020., 10.

Communion Liturgy: "Communion Liturgies." *Enfleshed*. <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

Altar Coverings: In commemoration of Women's History Month, our altar panels have been covered by the artwork of Schirlyn Kamara - 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" consist 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!

The following references contributed to Dr. Thayer's sermon today:

Brueggemann, Walter. *First and Second Samuel*. Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 1990.

Chapman, Stephen B. *1 Samuel as Christian Scripture: a theological commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016.

Ford, David F. "Prayer and Righteous Action: exploring Bonhoeffer's suggestion." *New Blackfriars* 66(781/782):336-347.

Jobling, David. *1 Samuel*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998.

Robinson, Gnana. *Let Us Be Like the Nations: a commentary on the books of 1 and 2 Samuel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Equilla Curry, Rev. Liz Fulmer, '20, Patty Hall, Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Max Staley, Beth Taylor, 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.