

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 15 and 18, 2023



"The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying..."
~Numbers 27:7a (NRSV)



Woman Wearing White T-shirt and Blue Denim Bottoms by Chelsi Peter

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT”

TAIZÉ

Within our Darkest Night / Dans nos Obscurités

Ostinato Refrain

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
feu qui ne s'é-teint ja - mais, ne s'é-teint ja - mais.
Last time

Text: Taizé Community, 1991
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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GREETING

PRESIDER

Our shouts of praise greet you, Shepherd God.

We have been led by your loving hand, and we proclaim with joy that you are our salvation. Reign in our hearts this day.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“I WOKE UP THIS MORNING”

NCH 85

...STAYED ON JESUS...STAYED ON FREEDOM...STAYED ON JUSTICE

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

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

S. Minister: In this moment of worship we call to mind those times of failure and regret common to all of us. We remember first, in silence, those times when we have failed to do all that we meant to do, or through our actions failed to be all we were meant to be. [Silence, then:]

Presider: We now recall our moments of integrity, those times we have lived into our deepest values, and acted as the human beings we always dreamed of being. [Silence, then:]

We choose at this moment to lay down the burden of our shortcomings, and grasp the courage to begin anew. Together, we affirm our capacity for goodness and grace, for freedom and purpose and joy. We are not trapped in our past, but freed by creation to live and grow today.

All: With gratitude, we say blessed be and 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]

“IN THE FOREST”

SAROJINI NAIDU

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

NUMBERS 27:1-11

NRSV

SERMON

DR. JULIA O'BRIEN

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Leader: blessed are you who are raging.

People: blessed are you who are mourning.

Leader: blessed are you who feel sick. and tired. and sick and tired.

People: blessed are you who have been organizing.

Leader: blessed are you who have been testifying.

People: blessed are you who have been hearing.

Leader: blessed are you who have been resisting.

People: blessed are you who are marching.

Leader: blessed are you who are weeping.

People: blessed are you who preach and know that divinity resides in despised, abused, violated flesh.

Leader: blessed are you who know deep in your bones that you are good. and beautiful. and beloved. and sacred. and worth. and believed. and held. and capable of healing beyond their wildest imagination.

People: blessed are we when we stay tender.

Leader: blessed are we when we stay fierce.

People: blessed are we when we dare to imagine repair, and transformation.

All: blessed are we when we labor together to make it so.

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 Spirit of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them to God.

Give thanks to our God!

All our thanks, all our praise!

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three” You beyond the galaxies,
You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain,
You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us your
image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the
night,

Your smile on Hagar and Esther, Your hand with Miriam and Ruth,
Your words through Deborah and Mary, You lived as Jesus among
us, Healing, teaching, dying, rising, Inviting us all to your feast.

On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave
thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is
my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the
cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the
new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit: Enliven this bread, Awaken this
body, Pour us out for each other. Transfigure our minds, Ignite your
church, Nourish the life of the earth. Make us, though broken, whole,
Make us, despite death, alive.

Come Holy Spirit! Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE**PRESIDER**

Come, for all is now ready. If you wish to partake there are COVID related options printed in your bulletin. Please note that we use grape juice and gluten free bread at this table as a practice of inclusive hospitality. 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 and wish to receive an interfaith prayer of blessing, 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**"COME AS YOU ARE"****CROWDER, MAHER, GLOVER**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION*PRESIDER**

**Our Life, our Mercy, our Might, Our Table, our Food, our Server, Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove, Our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine, Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree, Our Way, our Truth, our Life. You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!
Praise now, Praise tomorrow, Praise forever. Amen!**

CLOSING SONG*"WE CANNOT OWN THE SUNLIT SKY"****NCH 563*****BENEDICTION****SENDING & POSTLUDE**

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

Cover Art: Woman Wearing White T-shirt and Blue Denim Bottoms – Artist: Chelsi Peter

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/woman-wearing-white-t-shirt-and-blue-denim-bottoms-1564149/>

Centering Song: ““Within Our Darkest Night” - © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

Call to Worship: Elise S. Eslinger, Psalm 95 adaption in Upper Room Worshipbook: Music and Liturgies for Spiritual Formation, Elise S. Eslinger and Upper Room (Publisher : Nashville, Tenn.), eds., (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2006), 295.

Confession and Words of Assurance: “*The Courage to Begin Anew*” by Rosemary Bray McNatt,

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/prayer-confession/courage-begin-anew>

Prayer for Illumination: Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, HUPC – Prayer for Illumination,

<http://hamiltonunionpresbyterianchurch.org/files/HUPC%20-%20Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: “*Blessed are*” by Rev. Anna Bladel, adapted by the 2022 Chapel Team

<https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/miscellaneous-prayers/>

Poem: Sarojini Naidu, “The Forest,” allpoetry.com, accessed July 19, 2022,

<https://allpoetry.com/poem/8496427-In-The-Forest-by-Sarojini-Naidu>.

Communion Liturgy: Gail Ramshaw, Eucharistic Prayer adapted: Triple Praise in Upper Room Worshipbook: Music and Liturgies for Spiritual Formation, Elise S. Eslinger and Upper Room (Publisher : Nashville, Tenn.), eds., (Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2006), 50–51.

Communion Song: “Come As You Are” (vs. 1, chorus, vs. 2, chorus) by David Crowder, Matt Maher, Ben Glover CCLI Song Number: 7017790

****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.