

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 8 and 11, 2023



"I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreeae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord" - Romans 16:1-2a (NRSV)



Portrait of a woman, Roman period, A.D. 90-120, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“BLESS THE LORD”

TAIZE

TRANSFORMATION

Bless the Lord

575

Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

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

The first line of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a Dm chord, followed by a G chord, a Dm chord, a Bb chord, a C chord, an F chord, and an A chord. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name."

Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm

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

The second line of music continues in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a Dm chord, followed by a G chord, a Dm chord, a Bb chord, a C chord, and a Dm chord. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life."

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

O Everlasting Love, what joy to be in your presence.

How wonderful to know that you created us. How we marvel that you have made us your own.

Keep us mindful of your faithfulness,

Enfold us in your enduring love forever.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS”

NCH 205 (V.1, 2 & 4)

*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]

"BARBERSHOP"

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE

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.

SERMON

DEACONESS MYKA KENNEDY STEPHENS

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. 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 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

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

“WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”

UMH 292

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**

“GOD OF THE WOMEN”

CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

VERSES 1, 3 & 5

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

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

Cover Art:Portrait of a young woman in red, <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/547860>

Centering Song: “Bless the Lord My Soul” © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Call to Worship: Jo Hoover, Psalm 100 adaptation 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), 305

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://worshipleaderguide.blogspot.com/2009/06/prayers-for-illumination.html>

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

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

Poem: Naomi Shihab Nye, Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners, First edition (New York, N.Y: Greenwillow Books, 2018), 147-148.

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.

Closing Song: God of the Women Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used with author’s permission

***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.