

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

August 26, 2023



But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." - Matthew 15:25-26



"The Daughter of the Canaanite Woman" by Peter Koenig 2016

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

SURELY THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

UMH 328

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

STUDENT MINISTER

We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

Even when we are in deep trouble,

God makes us live again.

The love of God lasts forever. Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN**

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

UMH 140 (V. 1&3)

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

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

S. Minister

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 Spirit, 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)

Presider

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love. Know that we 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 way comfortable to you and your neighbor. Be mindful that some of our siblings may prefer non-contact ways of passing the peace, so kindly ask before hugging or shaking hands.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN

MARIAM WILLIAMS

Mariam Williams' poem shows a woman's faith being tested through courage and sacrifice, showing that one's own faith journey is not always easy, or even fair.

And I remember the first slap that followed the slur, how soft
were the fingertips, so slick with oil and sweat the burning mark
seemed to reassure both 'Know your place' and 'This, too, shall pass.'

And I remember my daughter's night thrashing in morning
for a fortnight now, rooster's call never signaling mercy.

How demons use her eight-year-old hands to pluck
the hair from her head in clumps, how she feeds the possessed
shredded curls to rats.

He who is without sin cannot call me a dog
and mean it, so Master, use me for your lesson. Slay
me with the hate of your people. I will play the role,
stay bowed at your feet, breathing their unearthly dust
as I say, 'But even the dogs eat the crumbs
that fall from their master's table.'

And I remember my daughter's kicking in my womb,
first suckle like new lover's tongue, first smile
my salvation.

And my faith is great.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Holy Spirit, as your word is read and preached, pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase understanding, opening hearts to bind us together in love.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 15:21-28

NRSV

A reading from Matthew's Gospel, chapter 15, verses 21 through 28.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. DR. DIANE BOGUES

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Loving God, with gratitude for all your goodness,
We come to you in prayer for our family and friends,
For our siblings in faith, and for the world of nations you have made.
Remember those who are dear to us. Wrap your steadfast love around them,
Sustain them in times of trouble, And keep them always in your care.
Hear now the people, places, and situations we name in our hearts or aloud...
[You are invited to name people, places, or situations in the silence of your hearts or aloud during this pause.]
Remember us,
Empower us,
Strengthen us,
And make us anew. Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
Presider: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise be to you, most holy God, giver of all life. You made us for companionship and shaped us for love; you gave us your good earth and taught us to care; you showed us your ways so we might learn justice.

We missed the love that marked your ways until you came – Word-made-flesh, your very being – and overwhelmed us with love. With hearts full of gratitude, we join our voices with all the saints on earth and in heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Through Jesus, you blessed us as never before, up close and personal. We were fed in homes and hillsides; we were healed in body, mind and soul; and in Jesus, we experienced the truth that no one is outside of your love.

We remember the night before his death, when he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. We remember how he took the cup, saying, This cup is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me. When the world did its worst, he gave himself that we might be clothed in light and life. Great is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Thank you for the Spirit at work in us and among us, who strengthens and sustains, challenges and prods, gives us life and surprises us with signs of your unending grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit now upon this bread and wine, that it may be for us the body and blood of Christ and anoint us that we might be one with him and one another.

With thanksgiving, we offer our whole selves to you now, Holy Three in One – our bodies to do your work and our voices to sing your praise – grateful for the eternal life and joy we share with you and all of your people.

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, O God, forever and ever! 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 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.

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, SINNERS TO THE GOSPEL FEAST

UMH 616

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, who gives life, nourishment, and strength to all creation,
We thank you: for the community of faith you have built,
For your servants who have held fast to you through centuries,
For the teachings and the witness of our ancestors,
for the gospel's welcome to all in need,
for the healing that comes from your watchfulness.
Bless these gifts that all may be nurtured in truth, we pray,
Amen!

*CLOSING SONG

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

UMC 140 (v.2)

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

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

Cover Art: Koenig, Peter. The Daughter of the Canaanite Woman, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58530> [retrieved June 8, 2023]. Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

Call to Worship: Long, Kimberly Bracken. 2014. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*. Westminster John Knox Press, 132

Confession/Words of Assurance: Garnaas-Holmes, Steve. "11th Sunday after Pentecost." *Unfolding Light* (blog). June 7, 2023. <https://unfoldinglight.net/2022/05/15/ot-21/>

Prayers of the Community: Long, Kimberly Bracken. 2014. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*. Westminster John Knox Press, 208

Poem: The Syrophoenician Woman By Mariam Williams, <https://www.thecommononline.org/the-syrophoenician-woman/> (accessed June 8, 2023)

Prayer for Illumination: Long, Kimberly Bracken. 2014. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*. Westminster John Knox Press, 148

Communion Liturgy: Kimberly Bracken Long, ed., *Feasting on the Word. Worship Companion*, 1st ed (Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 273-275.

Prayer after Thanksgiving: Long, Kimberly Bracken. 2014. *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2*. Westminster John Knox Press, 198

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

*Equilla Curry, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Patricia Hall, Jack Kasander, Cam Richesson '23, Deklan Rupp, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18., and DV Yost.
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.*