

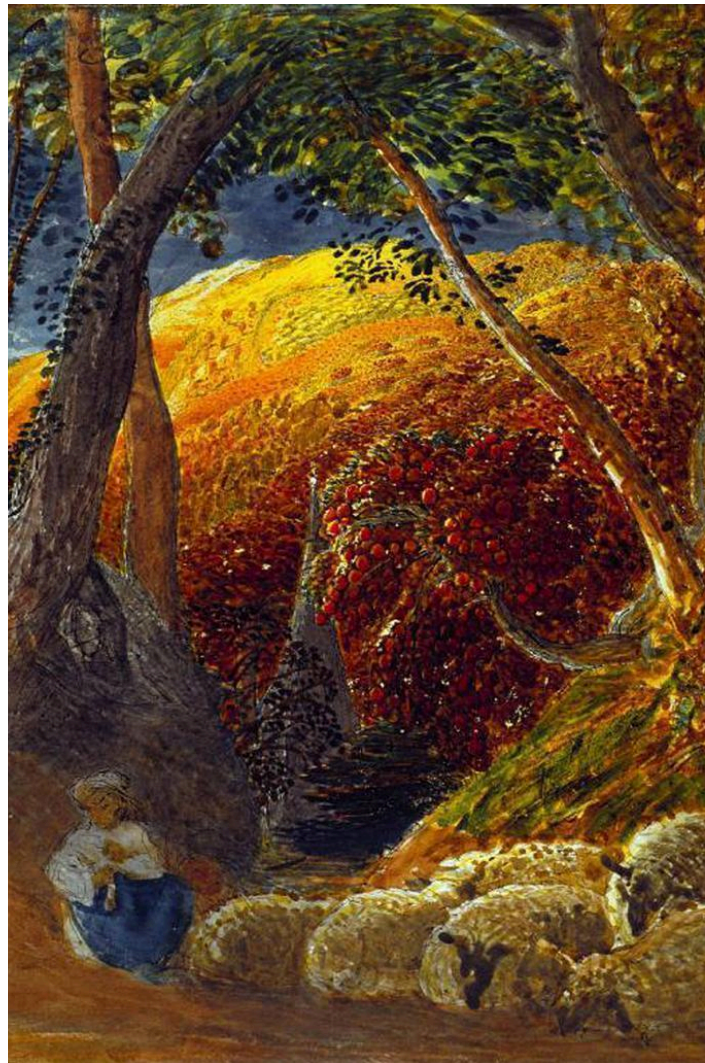
SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

April 17 & 20, 2024



*Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-
that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets,
and the psalms must be fulfilled."*

Luke 24:44



“...at the heart of the painting, the apple tree itself, bowing its branches low and offering its fruit freely to all, in a more than natural abundance, itself suggestive of grace.”

–Malcolm Guite

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“MORNING HAS BROKEN”

URW 186

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Beloved sparkles of divine love enfleshed, the source of Divine Love calls us into this place

To bring our full selves into community with one another.

The one who bore flesh and dwelled as love among us resides with us today

Speaking peace into our lives in the midst of chaos that challenges our bodily presence.

Praise the Spirit who moves through us on the path towards liberation

Let us worship the Divine together.

*OPENING HYMN

COME, SING WITH JOY TO GOD (vs. 1–3)

URW 292

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

Presider: Divine Spirit of everlasting presence, you are always much closer to us and to all than we can fathom. Yet we forget that you dwell in others when we distance ourselves from the lives of others and your creation.

Student Minister: We treat others and this Earth as if they are not sacred. We fall short in the pursuit of justice and bring harm to others when we haven't worked through our own issues.

[Time of Silent Confession]

Presider: And yet, again and again, Divine Spirit, you are there. Holding us in the mountains of your grace, through the light breeze of your presence, you speak to us and remind us that we are beloved.

All: Thank you God for your never ending grace and love. May we live lives transformed by your love so that others may do the same.

*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.

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

Let us share this peace with one another.

❖ DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE, **STUDENT MINISTER** TO LECTERN & **READER** TO PULPIT.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

“A GREAT WAGON”

RUMI

In this excerpt, the author describes the blurring of the line between the natural and the spiritual realm.

When I see your face, the stones start spinning!
You appear; all studying wanders.
I lose my place.
Water turns pearly.
Fire dies down and doesn't destroy.
In your presence I don't want what
I thought I wanted,
those three little hanging lamps.
Inside your face the ancient manuscripts
Seem like rusty mirrors.
You breathe; new shapes appear,
and the music of a desire as widespread
as Spring begins to move
like a great wagon.
Drive slowly.
Some of us walking alongside
are lame!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Great Spirit of all creation, may we lean into your presence as we enter into this space.
May you guide our hearts to receive your word written, spoken, and unspoken.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 24:36-48

NRSV

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 36 through 48.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. LIZ FULMER

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Join me in prayer:

Divine source of all things. We look forward to the day that your vision of the flourishing of all things on this Earth becomes a reality.

While we navigate life together, we see so much pain and suffering.

We pause now to name in our hearts the places where your liberating love needs to be made known.

[Time for silent naming]

Your love knows no bounds and doesn't just show up when we feel in the pit of despair, but reverberates in moments of radiant joy.

We pause again to name in our hearts those moments of radiant joy.

[Time for silent naming]

Thank you, Spirit, for your relentless love that finds a way through all things to be with us. Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

*THE SACRAMENT 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, our life-breath

To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation – the tiny ones, the scaly ones, the human ones, the leafy ones – all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your Sacred hand. In your love for us, you claim us – individually and as a whole – as your beloveds. You will for us life abundant and you invite us into co-work with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide. Like those who turned on Jesus when things became too difficult, we too are tempted to desert those most vulnerable.

But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love \ enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.

This relentless invitation of yours that entices with freedom and joy and forgiveness is such a threat to empire that it still attempts to crucify every incarnation of your love today. And so, we are reminded of the example given to us in the person of Jesus.

Presider

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around the table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, [The presider may break and lift up the bread]

“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

[The presider may lift up the cup]

“This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.” And so in remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one in our commitment to the liberation of all your creatures and creations.

Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kin-dom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. 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

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

NCH 330

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.

BLESSING FOR CROSS-CULTURAL GROUP [SAT. ONLY]

CROSS CULTURAL TRIP: BORDERS OF MEXICO

INTRODUCTION OF TRIP LEADERS AND ROLL CALL OF STUDENTS

DEAN LOVELACE

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

REV. DR. KATHY HARVEY NELSON

Leader: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith

Travelers: We come seeking the cloud of your presence as we travel the way.

Leader: As we journey together we name our own uncertainties of this path from each other and from ourselves.

Travelers: We come seeking your pillar of fire to light our darkness

Leader: We see not what you see ahead, the joys and discoveries we will encounter from each other and from ourselves.

All: Shine in our hearts, O God, With the light of your love.

Make your presence be known as we learn to trust you, and trust those who are called to lead us, through Jesus Christ, our traveling friend. AMEN

HYMN

ENVIADO SOY DE DIOS

SEE PAGE 9

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

REV. BRENDA ENDERS

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Abraham,

The blessing of the son of Mary and Joseph

The blessing of the Holy Spirit,

Who broods over us as a mother over her children,

Be with you in this crucial journey

May the Eastern Star lead you further east

May you follow that Star into a new world of Knowledge

A new world of wonder, colors, sounds and smells.

May you come back transformed by the stories of the people you will listen to,

Inspired by their courage and aware that God is at work there too...

Come back to share, connect us with that new world-new reality

May your faith become Global, finding a local expression for justice and peace.

HYMN

ENVIADO SOY DE DIOS

SEE PAGE 9

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills

People: from where will our help come?

Leader: Your help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: God will not let our foot be moved, the One who keeps us will not slumber.

Leader: God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

People: God is our keeper; God is our shade at our right hand.

Leader: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

People: God will keep us from all evil; God will keep our lives.

Leader: God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

People: Amen

Each person is invited to take a name from the basket at the entrance. This is the person you will pray for from now until the group returns on May 14th.

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*As we walk on our own roads,
May we listen, learn, and discover
The presence of the Divine among us.*

Cover Art: Palmer, Samuel, 1805-1881. "Magic Apple Tree," from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58401> Commentary by Malcolm Guite from *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* <https://thevcs.org/be-transformed/fruitfulness-and-transfiguration>.

Poem: Rumi, excerpt from *A Great Wagon*, <https://services.slcp.org/poetrypath>.

Communion Liturgy: From <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/ordinaryworshipsettings/#different>

**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, Stephanie Oelrich, Cam Richesson '23, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18., and DV Yost.
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor*

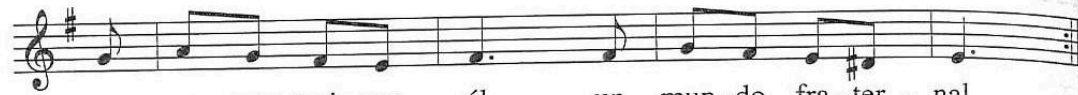
THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

*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.*

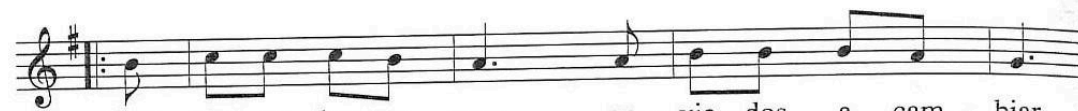
718 Enviado soy de Dios / The Lord Now Sends Us Forth



*En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth pre - pared to serve and give,



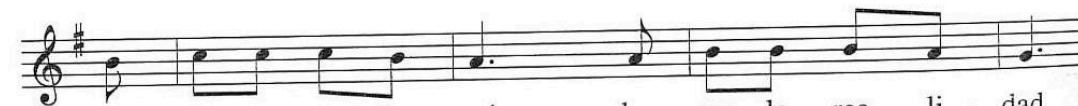
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
To make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor en un mun - do me - jor;
To do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;



me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
That falls to you and me and all in Christ made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

*Enviada

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