

Lancaster Theological Seminary

# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

"I the Lord test the  
mind  
and search the  
heart..."



# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“SOON AH WILL BE DONE”

SPIRITUAL (SOLO)

## GREETING

“This series of services integrates Hebrew and American Sign languages. We cherish and embrace diversity within and beyond our community through the sounds and expressions of multiple cultures and means of communication.

Parenthetical translations are provided to be read but not spoken.

One	[SIGN “bless.”]	Baruch Ata Adonai. [Bah-ROOKah-TAH ah-DOH-nai]	(Blessed are You, Lord.)
Many	[SIGN “bless.”]	Baruch Ata. [Bah-ROOKah-TAH]	(Blessed are You.)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One	Gracious God, strengthen us in times when we feel uprooted and thirst for Your ever-living water. Guide us closer to the understanding that You are the eternal nourishment for our souls. Root us into Your Spirit and energy that a wellspring may flow forth from us for the sake of our sisters and brothers to whom we minister.
Many	We trust in Your love; our hearts turn to You! Help us to bear the fruit of Your Spirit’s love. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN

“YOU ARE MY STRENGTH”

WILLIAM MURPHY

You are my strength  
Strength like no other  
Strength like no other

Reaches to me  
  
In the fullness of your grace

In the power of your name  
You lift me up

You lift me up

**\*CONFESSION**

One As we turn to the baptismal font that reminds us of the waters of cleansing, let us join our voices in a prayer of confession.

Many O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community  
which looks to the common good; privileges all equally,  
and creates societal systems  
which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts,  
devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

One Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:  
...  
or worship like us to be silenced.

Many We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality.  
We foster in them a denigrating sense of nobodiness.  
Lord, have mercy.

One Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves  
in the face of their struggle for full human life.

Many For it is not solely hateful words and actions,  
but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.  
Christ, have mercy.

One Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness:  
You have called us to be drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness,

Many Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times,

One To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible,  
and we grow weary. We cry,

Many "Peace, peace,"

One but there is no peace within us or around us.  
We find ourselves on the path  
of hatred and oppression, violence and war.

Many Lord, have mercy.

### \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us!

...

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:

“My delight is in them.”

Many Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,  
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,  
for empowering our work and inviting us once again  
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One Peace be with you!

Many And also with you!

One Let us share this peace with one another.

## Service of the Word

### POEM

*“Those Winter Sundays” by Robert Hayden meditates on the sweet love and sacrifice of a parent figure, of which a child is unaware.*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### READING

JEREMIAH 17:5-10, NRSV

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

One            Ever living and ever loving God,  
We praise you for your loving presence with us.

Many           **Come, Holy Spirit,**  
One            take and transform our societies—  
that broken people find healing;  
that lonely people find love;  
that bitter people find peace;  
that fearful people find hope.

One            Come, Holy Spirit,  
Many           **remove what hinders us from loving each other –**  
**matters of status, race, class, ability, gender, sexual orientation, theology,**  
**or political affiliation.**  
**We are all your reflection; remind us of this truth.**

Many           **Come, Holy Spirit,**  
One            fill your church—  
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;  
that prayers will change our minds  
instead of trying to get you to change yours;  
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.

One            Come, Holy Spirit,  
Many           **fill our lives with your presence—**  
**so that more and more every day,**  
**all that we do and say and hope**  
**will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,**  
**to the glory of your name. Amen.**



# Service of the Table

## OFFERTORY SONG

## “IF I DIDN’T HAVE YOUR LOVE”

COHEN/LEONARD

If the sun would lose its light  
And we lived an endless night  
And there was nothing left  
That you could feel  
That’s how it would be  
My life would seem to me  
If I didn’t have your love  
To make it real

And if no leaves were on the tree  
And no water in the sea  
And the break of day  
Had nothing to reveal  
That’s how broken I would be  
What my life would seem to me  
If I didn’t have your love  
To make it real

If the stars were all unpinned  
And a cold and bitter wind  
Swallowed up the world  
Without a trace  
Oh well that’s where I would be  
What my life would seem to me  
If I couldn’t lift the veil  
And see your face

If the sun would lose its light  
And we lived an endless night  
And there was nothing left  
That you could feel  
If the sea were sand alone  
And the flowers made of stone  
And no one that you hurt  
Could ever heal  
Well that’s how broken I would be  
What my life would seem to me  
If I didn’t have your love  
To make it real

## \*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One	The Lord be with you.
Many	And also with you.
One	Lift up our hearts.
Many	We lift them to the Lord.
One	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many	It is right to give our thanks and praise.
One	Reconciling God, you draw together heaven and earth,
	...
	And so you draw us into the company of your angels
	around your eternal throne, singing their hymn of unending praise.



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

One         God the three-in-one,  
...  
Great is the mystery of faith.

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

One         God of justice and mercy, bless your whole creation.  
...  
Through whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

Many        Amen.

## Invitation to the Table

COMMUNION SONG

“DEEP RIVER”

SPIRITUAL (SOLO)

# Going Forth as the Body of Christ

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One         Let us stand together as we join our voices in thanksgiving.

Many        God you have gathered us, fed us, and reminded us of the height, depth,  
and breadth of your love for us. Accept the praise of our lips and the  
gratitude of our hearts for this holy food. We return to your work of mercy  
and justice in the world, strengthened by your amazing grace. All for the  
sake of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

\*BENEDICTION

\*DISMISSAL

One            Go in peace and live boldly in the Spirit!  
Many        Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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**Cover Art:** Photograph by Kara Young of worship in Santee Chapel.

**Confession and Words of Assurance:** United Church of Christ, “Martin Luther King Weekend,” Worship Ways, accessed January 31, 2019, [http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_worship-ways](http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways).

**Poem:** “Those Winter Sundays” by Robert Hayden, Poetry Foundation, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46461/those-winter-sundays>.

**Prayer for Illumination:** Gospel Coalition, “A Prayer Before Preaching the Gospel,” <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/a-prayer-before-preaching-the-gospel/>.

**Prayers for the Community:** From the Baptist Union of Great Britain website, modified by the LTS worship team. <http://www.baptist.org.uk/>

**Communion Liturgy:** Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic Prayers* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016).

**Altar Coverings:** As we commemorate Black History month, our altar panels have been covered by the art work of Schirlyn Kamara - [www.handzonrealisticfineart.com](http://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 worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

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**Lancaster Theological Worship Team**

Daniel Dorsey, Beth Eustis, Liz Fulmer, Megan Mathieson, Michael Panzarella,  
Scott Siciliano, Kellie Turner, Coralie Weston, Kara Young  
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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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.