

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

December 2 and 5, 2020



“Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

~ Isaiah 64: 8 (NRSV)



ADVENT

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

NCH 116

v. 1, 6, 7

GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Presider: All around us days shorten and nights lengthen,
but we are told that the night is almost over, and a light is drawing near.

Many (Reader): **We wait on God’s light together**

Chaos surrounds us as the business of the season approaches,
but we are called along pathways of peace

We wait on God’s peace together

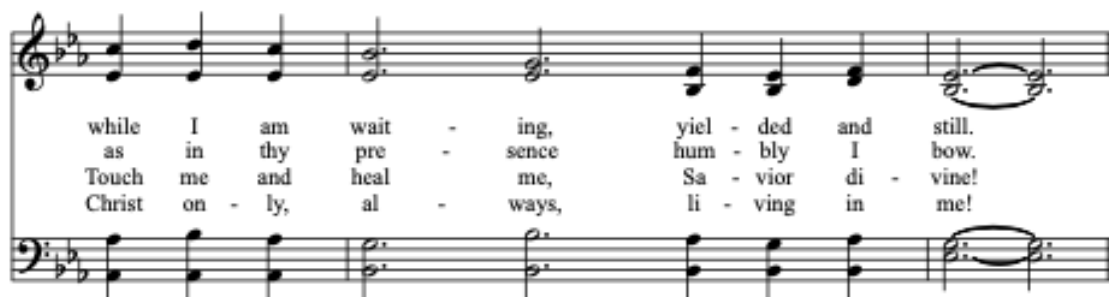
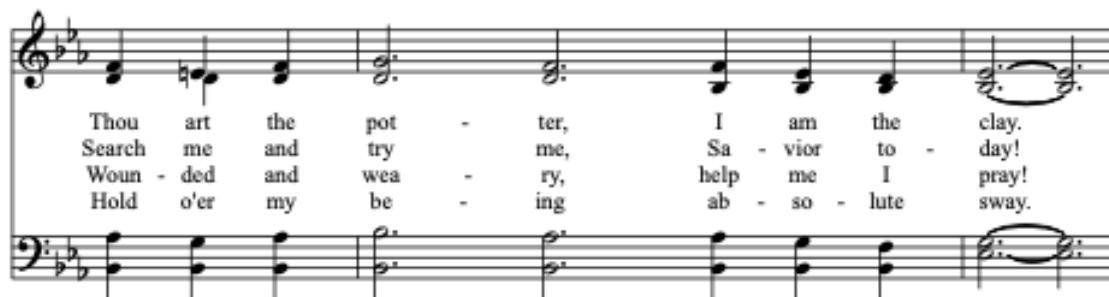
In this season of friends and family,
we dearly miss the faces that are absent this year

We wait on God’s comfort together

Though the world can seem dark and chaotic both within and without
we are told that God will build a house among us

We wait on God’s presence together

[this space left blank intentionally]



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now let us come before God with words of confession:

Lord of mercy, God of grace, we give thanks to you with one voice for the joy and hope this season brings. At times we find ourselves distracted by all the preparations and stresses that surround us. Help us to focus on you, our Rock and Redeemer. Restore our hearts to your message of love and your call to peace. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of assurance:

We worship a God who is not distant nor apathetic, but a God who is with us—a God who loves us. Let us keep our eyes open and look for God’s daily presence and conform our ways to God’s teachings of compassion and grace. Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.

Thanks be to God

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

In the waiting hour, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Service of the Word

POEM

“THE WOUND IS WHERE THE LIGHT ENTERS YOU”

RUMI

Trust your wound
to a skilled healer

You can’t see
the ugliness of your own wounds

Flies hover over them:
your thoughts

Your wound is
your heart’s state
unilluminated

The healer
this sage
puts a bandage on your wound

The pain
is gone

You think you healed all by yourself
but know this

The healing
was from the light

The wound
is where the light
enters you

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 64

NRSV

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. Your holy cities have become a wilderness, Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins.

After all this, will you restrain yourself, O Lord? Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely?

[Pause for 1 deep breath.]

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. DR. CARRIE CALL

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

One: Unknowable God,
you come to make yourself known to us in loving relationship.

Many: Help us know you.

You come with a message of peace and comfort for those who are hurting
and those who are tired.

Help us know peace and comfort.

As you did centuries ago, be with us again today as we seek to learn from
you and from one another.

In the name of your Child, Jesus Christ
who walked among us,

Amen

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

❖ **THE PRESIDER** INVITES THE ASSEMBLY TO BRING THEIR ELEMENTS FORWARD WHILE THE
OFFERTORY SONG IS PLAYING.

[this space left blank intentionally]

$\text{♩} = 72$

D G/D D F#m/A G2 A/C# D

1. Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us.
 2. Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
 3. Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us.

5 G/D D F#m/A G2 A/C# D D/F#

Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us That
 Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us That
 Lord, let Your love, love with no end come o - ver us That

9 G A/C# D D/F# G A/C# Dsus D D/F# G F#m/A

we may be saved, that we may have life; To find our way in the dark - est

14 Bm G D/A A7 D 1. 2

night, Let Your light shine on us.
 night, Let Your grace fall on us.
 night, Let Your love come o - ver

17 Bm Bm/A G D/A A7 D

us, let Your light shine on us.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Presider: The Lord be with you.

Many (**Reader**): And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, We give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all.

We give thanks that you invite us on this Advent journey. Awake, curious, longing to meet you, we set out for your table of grace. You light our path one step at a time, beckoning us onto a Way that offers us new eyes to explore the vision of the Promised One; new senses to feel the heartbeat of the Vulnerable One; new courage to share the urgency of the Ruler of Peace. One more step, one more stretch, one more challenge takes us deeper into the mystery of your abundant life: a world healed, renewed; all nature, all people at peace.

We give you thanks for sending us Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us, whose life, death and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you in creating your new heaven and new earth.

Holy, holy God, almighty
Earth and heaven behold Your light
Blessed are You whose name is Lord
Hosanna to the highest heights

We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying “Take and eat: for this is my body.”

And after supper, as Jesus looked forward to your desired day of joy and power; he took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said “Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God. Share this bread and this cup in memory of me.”

Come now, Holy Spirit of God—

As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

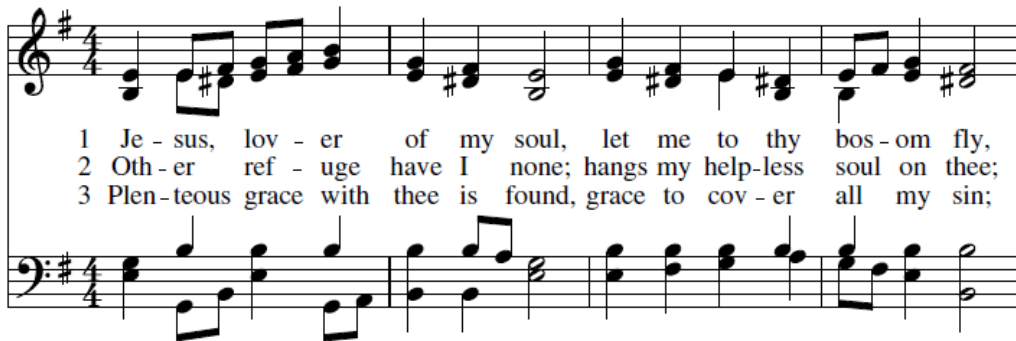
As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

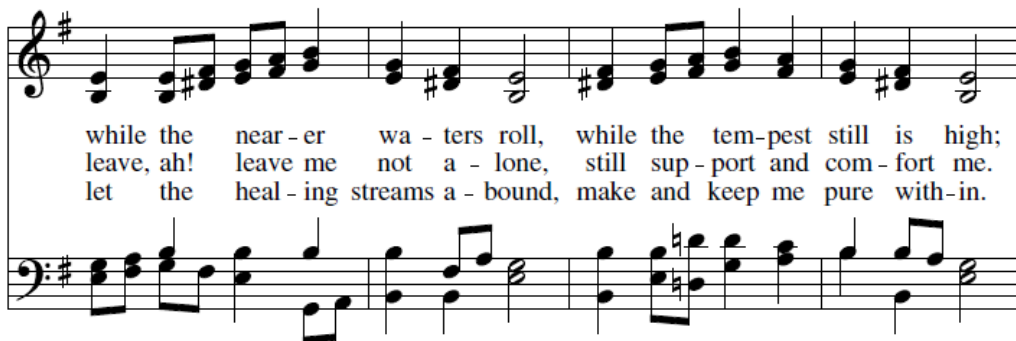
CLOSING SONG

“JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL”

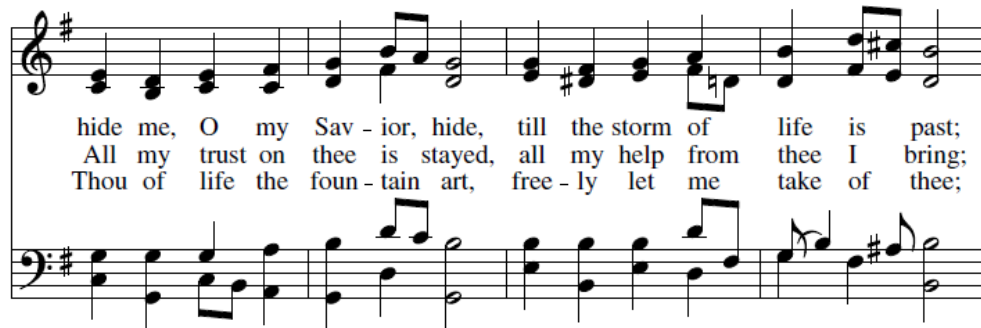
NCH 546



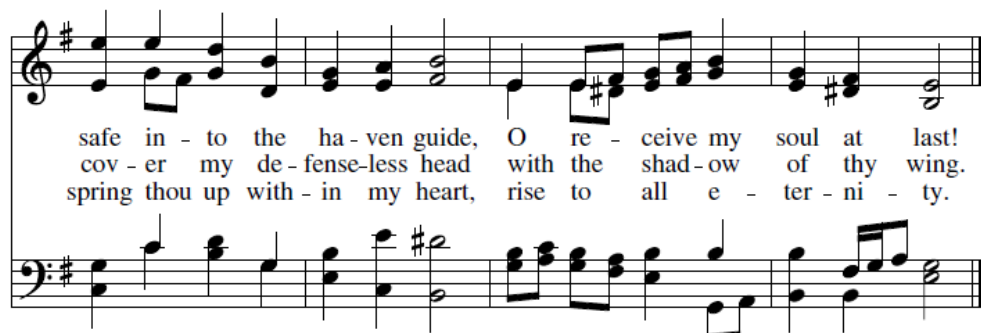
1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,
2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help - less soul on thee;
3 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin;



while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high;
leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and com - fort me.
let the heal - ing streams a - bound, make and keep me pure with - in.



hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
Thou of life the foun - tain art, free - ly let me take of thee;



safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!
cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
spring thou up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL”

INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

Cover Art: Berg, Else, 187701942. A Potter, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56317> [retrieved June 17, 2020]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Else_Berg_A_potter.jpg.

Greeting: Pacific NorthWest Conference UMC, Bishop Hagiya Grant, November 26, 2012, “Advent Greetings From Bishop Hagiya,” accessed June 23, 2020, <https://www.pnwumc.org/news/advent-greetings-from-bishop-hagiya/>.

Opening Hymn: Public Domain, Reprinted under permission of OneLicense.

Poem: “The Wound Is Where the Light Enters You,” Rumi, translated and edited by Omid Safi in his book entitled *Radical Love*, 2018.

Prayer of Illumination: UMC Hymnal, “For Illumination,” #477, 1989.

Prayers: Hodges, Laura. “Keeping Faith,” 2019. https://www.ucc.org/advent_1_december_1.

Offertory Song: “Shine on Us,” Michael W. Smith & Deborah D. Smith, CCLI license 2676632

Communion: Blain, Susan. “Advent Communion Service.” United Church of Christ, 2019. https://www.ucc.org/advent_communion_service.

Closing Song: “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” words by Charles Wesley, music by Joseph Parry, public domain. Reprinted under permission of OneLicense

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM
Jeremy Edwards, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke, Rose Shepley, Rev. Scott Siciliano
Hyiwot Teshome, Kellie Turner, Jennifer Weitzel
Stephanie Dorsey, Interim 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.