

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

September 9 and 12, 2020



“When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.”

~ Exodus 12:13 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“SOMOS PUEBLO QUE CAMINA”

NCH 340

**Somos pueblo que camina
por la senda del dolor
Acudamos jubilosos
a la santa comunión.**

**We are people on a journey;
pain is with us all the way.
Joyfully we come together
at the holy feast of God**

**God has sent the invitation
to the humble and the poor
Joyfully we come together
at the holy feast of God**

**This is bread that God provides us,
nourishing our unity.
Joyfully we come together
at the holy feast of God**

**Christ is ever present with us
to unite us all in love.
Joyfully we come together
at the holy feast of God**

GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Many **My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

**I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

**This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.**

OPENING HYMN

“GO DOWN, MOSES”

AAHH 543

**When Israel was in Egypt's land;
Let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,
Let my people go!**

**REFRAIN:
Go down, Moses,
'Way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharaoh,
let my people go!**

**Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said;
Let my people go,
If not, I'll smite your firstborn dead.
Let my people go.**

REFRAIN

**No more shall they in bondage toil;
Let my people go,
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil,
Let my people go.**

REFRAIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Now let us come before God with words of confession:

Lord God, in the light of your glory we see the evil we have done, the suffering we have caused, the indifference and callousness we have shown in not standing up to oppression and repression. In the silence we hide behind when we should speak up; in shirking our godly duties and responsibilities in favor of belonging to the world. Feed us with your Word and Spirit, strengthen our bodies and minds and still our hearts so we may openly and unabashedly follow your guide. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again. It is the promise of that amazing grace.

Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel!

Many In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All 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.

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

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM

“WON’T YOU CELEBRATE WITH ME”

LUCILLE CLIFTON

won't you celebrate with me
what i have shaped into
a kind of life? i had no model.
born in Babylon
both nonwhite and woman
what did i see to be except myself?
i made it up
here on this bridge between
starshine and clay,

my one hand holding tight
my other hand; come celebrate
with me that everyday
something has tried to kill me
and has failed.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 12:1 – 14

NRSV

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

SERMON

DR. JULIA O'BRIEN

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

One Lord as we invite you into this space, hear our hearts as we pray:
For all those who are sick , and have loved ones who are sick with
Coronavirus and Covid 19

Many Lord, hear us.

For all people of color that have endured systematic oppression, injustice
and racism.

Lord, hear us.

For the families that have lost loved ones as a result of systematic
oppression, injustice and racism.

Lord hear us

For persons of the LGBTQIA who endure systematic oppression and
injustice.

Lord, hear us.

For the families that have lost loved ones of the LGBTQIA as a result of
systematic oppression, injustice.

Lord, hear us.

Grant us liberty in our mind, body and soul to love our neighbor as
ourselves.

Lord, hear us.

Help us to boldly stand for justice and righteousness for all people.

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

No matter what people say,
Say or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what people say,
Say or think about you,
You are a child, you are a child of God,

No matter what the world says,
Says or thinks about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what the Church says,
Decisions, pronouncements on you,
You are a child, you are a child of God.

And there is nothing and no one
who can separate, they can't separate
you from the truth that you're someone.
You are family.
You are meant to be a child, a child of God.
You are a child, a child of God.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

One The Holy One be with you
Many **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 who took on flesh
For your presence within us and around us, we give you thanks!

God, we give you thanks for dwelling, not at a distance, but intimately in our lives - as intimately as our own flesh.

You gifted us with bodies and through them we come to know you:

Through touch.

Through taste.

Through struggle.

Through rest.

Too often, O God, we treat the needs, longings, and desires of our own bodies as a barrier to our life in you. We dismiss the bodily needs of our neighbors. We condemn people because of their bodies or how they use their bodies in different ways than us. But you, in your love for us and for all creatures and creations, took on flesh like ours, entangling, forever, the Holy with our flesh. You showed us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we love through our bodies, we seek justice for bodies, we live out our faith in these bodies - not despite them.

Jesus, who took care and rest of his own body, revealed what God with flesh on looks like.

He fed people. He healed people. He ate with people. He met the physical and spiritual needs of bodies.

And when his own body was threatened by political and religious execution, he turned to the Table. He sought, first, in his hour of need, to share in a meal with his friends.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

"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,
"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

**The body of God was crucified.
And the the body of God was resurrected.
Not only in spirit, but in flesh.**

God has shown us, these bodies are holy, precious, and full of possibility.

And so we pray to the Holy Spirit: Come, bless this bread and this cup, that we might encounter your presence as we touch, and we taste, and we feel. Make us one with the sacredness of our own flesh and blood. Make us one with the flesh of all who suffer. Make us one with the flesh of the earth. At this Table, may we become one body. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Enfleshed One, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes our hunger for justice, for connection, for a world that is whole. We long for so much more than a taste. May we be relentless pursuers of your Kingdom, until every body has its needs met, every body is recognized as beloved, and every body is treated with dignity and care. Amen.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“IN EGYPT UNDER PHARAOH”

NCH 574

**In Egypt under Pharaoh the Israelites were bound,
from plagues and tribulations no respite could be found.
Praise God who in surprising ways gives passage through the waves.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator saves.**

**From Africa to gangplanks, across a friendless sea,
black captives harshly treated all struggled to be free.
Praise God who strengthened advocates with power that does and dares.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator cares.**

**Wherever hurting humans unjustly live in pain,
the hungry, homeless, hopeless, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great redeeming love each servant freely gives.
Our Liberator rescues, our Liberator lives!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“GO DOWN MOSES”

INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

Cover Art: First Passover, crossing through the divided sea, blood on the doorposts, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57291> [retrieved June 11, 2020]. Original source: <https://tableviewmethodist.blogspot.com/p/bible-story-windows.html>.

Table View Methodist Church in Cape Town, South Africa, celebrates a theological and symbolic journey through the Bible through simple, yet meaningful stained glass. They were designed by Rev. Angus Kelly in 2018 and installed by Anika Van de Merwe of Silverstain Stained Glass Studios in Advent 2019.

Greeting: United Church of Canada, *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services* (Etobicoke, Ontario: United Church Publishing House, 2000), 19.

Call to Worship: Psalm 34: 1-6 (*New Revised Standard Version*).

Gathering Hymn: “Somos pueblo que camina” from *Misa Popular Nicaraguense*. Translation Copyrighted by The Pilgrim Press.

Prayer of Illumination: Caldwell Presbyterian Church, “Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers),” <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

Poem: Lucille Clifton, “won't you celebrate with me” from *Book of Light*. Copyright © 1993 by Lucille Clifton. Reprinted by permission of Copper Canyon Press. *The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.

Offertory: “Child of God” by Mark A. Miller Copyright 2015 Choristers Guild. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

Communion Liturgy: *Enfleshed*, “LGBTQ-related: Communion (3),” <https://enfleshed.com/pages/lgbtq-related>, accessed July 2, 2020.

Sending Hymn: “In Egypt Under Pharaoh” Text by Dosia Carlson. Written for the 150th anniversary of the Amistad event. Copyright 1994 Pilgrim Press. Reprinted with permission of OneLicense.net

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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.