

March 3 and 6, 2021

“So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan,
and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah.”



~ 2 Kings 22:14 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“SPIRIT OF LIFE”

CAROLYN McDADE

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Throughout the ages, disciples have said,
“I will follow you wherever you go.”

**Sovereign God, give us the freedom to follow you
in the ways of love.**

We come from busy homes, filled with little time
to consider Christ in our lives.

**Sovereign God, give us the strength to follow you
in the ways of peace.**

In times of struggle, we look to God for help.

**Sovereign God, give us the opportunity to follow you
in the ways of kindness.**

Today, we celebrate the Holy Spirit,
who shows us the joy of following God.

**Sovereign God, give us the patience to follow you
in the ways of faith. Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN

“BRING MANY NAMES”

NCH 11

Bring many names, beautiful and good, Celebrate in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God. Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day, Planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play: Hail and Hosanna! Strong mother God!

Warm Father God, hugging every child, Feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving till we're reconciled, Hail and Hosanna! Warm father God!

Great, living God, never fully known, Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and Hosanna! Great living God!

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Merciful God, whenever we seek you, love is what we find.

But you do not always find the same when you seek us.

Love is patient, **but often we are impatient.**

Love is kind, **but often we are rude.**

Love is not envious, **but we often covet.**

Love does not insist on its own way, **but we often do just that.**

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, **but we often celebrate violence.**

Love never ends, **and yet we do not always seek your love as our ultimate purpose.**

Help us, loving God, to shed our sin and reflect the light of your love.

Guide us that we might have faith in your presence, that we might hope in your providence, and, above all, that we might live with your love as our muse.
Amen.

Hear the good news:

**Many Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun. 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 3/3

“I AM A STRONG WOMAN”

BY KASIA FEDYK

I am a strong woman
you can see the fire
burning in my eyes
it's not the strength
of a powered muscle
but the hand that is feeding my soul
I am a strong woman
that sees beyond the veil
walking on clouds
as a virtue
they become my cushion
my syllables of words unspoken
carriage of believes
carousel of rainbows
painted upon my heart
become the seal of my energy
I am a strong woman
I stand between the two poles
darkness and light
my arms extended to keep them straight
might comes from most powerful source
I don't rely on the potency of the flesh
that weakens me with every pore
the power within my only authority
so vivid and immense
remains
I am a strong woman

READING 3/6

“AIN'T I A WOMAN”

SOJOURNER TRUTH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Please, join me in prayer.

O God, beautifully Divine, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING

2 KINGS 22:11-20

NRSV

A reading from 2 Kings, chapter 22, verses 11 through 22:

When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah, saying, "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her.

She declared to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me, Thus says the Lord, I will indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him,

Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes

and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place.” They took the message back to the king.

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

SERMON **LOUISE RANCK (3/3), SARAH RAMSLAND (3/6)**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

We come together to give you honor and praise.
We ask that you would help us to draw close to you.

Creator, hear us

Please come and speak your words of wisdom into our lives.
Help us to embrace one another, our similarities, our differences, our concerns and our joys.

Redeemer, hear us

We long for your touch on our lives, that we might be your hands and feet to the world.
Inspire our hearts, heal our wounds, bring your peace into our worries and your hope into our disappointments.

Sustainer, hear us

Come Lord and weave your love into our fellowship together, that we may overflow with grace and allow your truth to light up our lives anew.

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“MOTHERING GOD, YOU GAVE ME BIRTH”

NCH 467

**Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, Source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun;
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace;
your very body for my peace.**

**Mothering Spirit, nurturing One, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grown until I flower, until I know;
until I flower, until I know.**

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 who takes risks for love

For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks

Throughout history, O God, we have struggled to remember who we are. When forces of evil work to shape our understanding of you, ourselves, and one another, we get lost. We hide parts of ourselves. We keep the things that make us vulnerable buried deep. We cling to security and safety. We turn from meaningful connection with one another. We take cover under the patterns of our culture.

But you have created us for so much more.

In Jesus we saw a life lived in all its potential.

Life that is abundant, life that is collective, life that is tender and full.

But we saw, also, in him, what can happen to a life when power and norms are exchanged for truth, collective justice, and integrity. And so we wonder.

If we live true to our authentic selves, will we be condemned?

In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power, do we stand a chance of survival?

How will it go for us, if we are willing to risk everything for love?

You have never promised us safety, but you have shown us what is possible.
The Spirit brings new life even to places of death.
Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead, kept proclaiming his truth.
There was nothing worth his silence, not even his life.
And so he turned to community for companionship in the struggle.

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."

In Jesus, God came out to the world, challenging systems and norms. And though
great violence was done and unfathomable loss was felt, Love presses on still today,
transforming life after life.

And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup. Through these gifts, fill
our hearts with courage to live boldly for one another, proclaiming the truths that
set us free.
Blessed be this meal of hope. Amen.

Those who would like an ecumenical prayer of blessing will now be placed in a
breakout room with the preacher.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, we give you thanks for the invitation to your Table. No matter who we are, no
matter our struggles or regrets, we are never turned away. Like all the gifts you give
us, may we never be content to keeping them to ourselves. May this meal compel
us to invite others - especially those who are turned away from the tables of their
families, their churches, their communities - to our own tables, overflowing with
love and nourishment abundant. **Amen.**

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“GUIDE MY FEET”

NCH 497

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Hold my hand while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,
I'm your child while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
Stand by me while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
Guide my feet while I run this race,
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

“TRYPTIC DANCE”

ANCIENT CELTIC MELODY

Go and search diligently where God resides,
And pay homage to all in whom the Spirit lives.

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Call to Worship: Sara Dunning Lambert, *Ministry Matters*, 5(April 2019), <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3972/worship-elements-june-30-2019>, accessed July 23, 2020, edited by LTS Chapel Team.

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Poem: Kasia Fedyk, "I Am a Strong Woman," *Rhymings*, <https://rhymings.com/kasia-fedyk/i-am-a-strong-woman/>, accessed July 21, 2020.

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

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Communion Liturgy: *Enfleshed*, "LGBTQ-related: Communion (4)," <https://enfleshed.com/pages/lgbtq-related>, accessed July 21, 2020.

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

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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.