

# Lancaster Theological Seminary

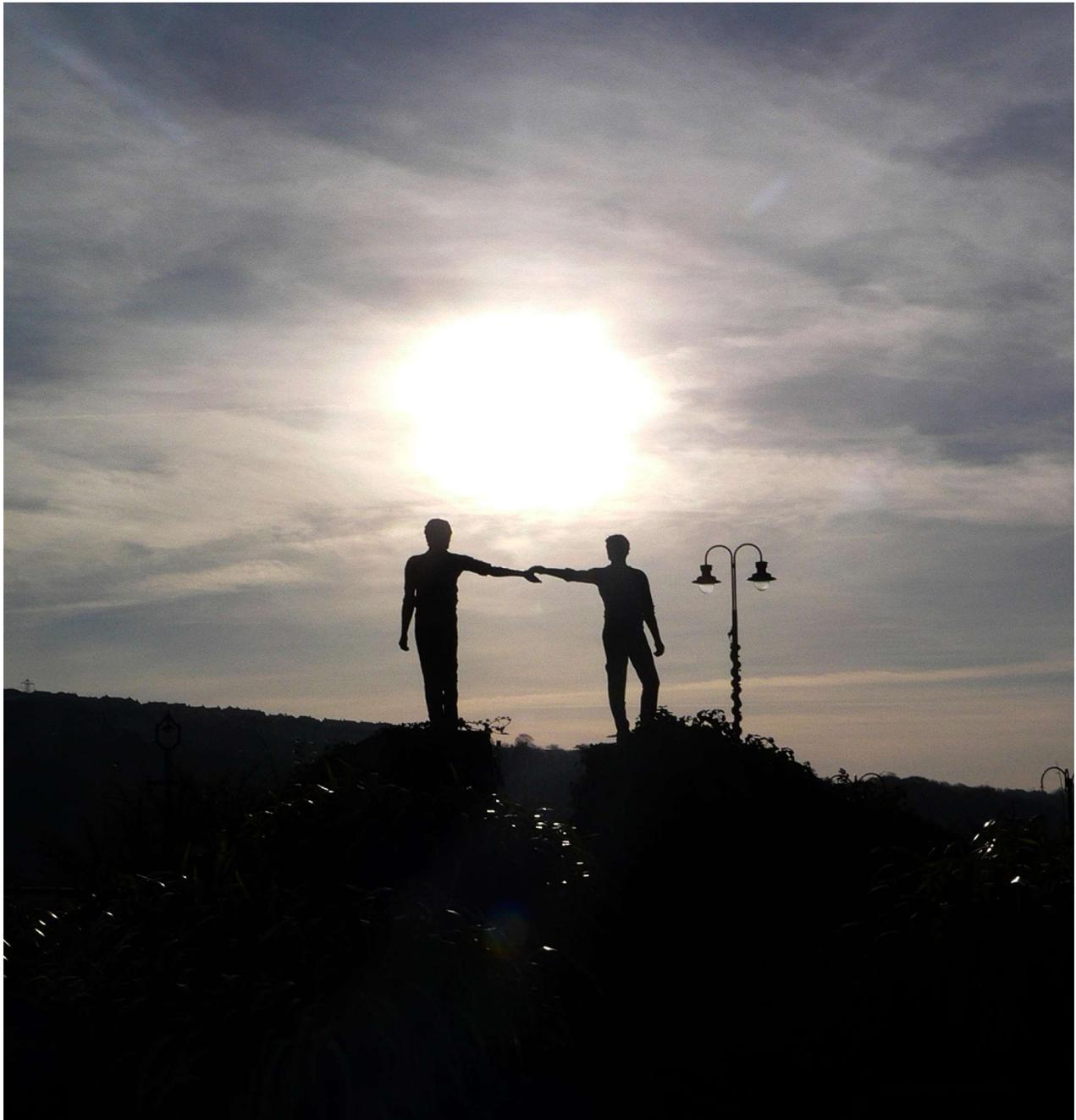
## SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

January 27 and January 30, 2021



“Take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”

~ 1 Corinthians 8:9 (NRSV)



# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

TAIZÉ

## Bless the Lord

Ostinato Refrain

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life.

Text: Psalm 103; Taizé Community  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
© 1982, 1983, 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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GREETING

PRESIDER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

A love that never ceases,

**A creativity that designed the universe,**

A hope that cannot be quenched,

**A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:**

These are the things that are of God,

**Then let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD” vs. 1, 3, 4**

**NCH 8**

**PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD, THE GOD OF LOVE AND LIGHT**

**WHOSE WORD BROUGHT FORTH THE MYRIAD SUNS AND SET THE WORLDS IN FLIGHT;**

**WHOSE INFINITE DESIGN, WHICH WE BUT DIMLY SEE,**

**PERVADES ALL NATURE, MAKING ALL A COSMIC UNITY**

**PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD, WHO KNOWS OUR JOY AND PAIN,  
WHO SHARES WITH US OUR COMMON LIFE, THE SACRED AND PROFANE.  
GOD TOILS WHERE'ER WE TOIL, IN HOME AND MART AND MILL;  
AND DEEP WITHIN THE HUMAN HEART GOD LEADS US FORWARD STILL.**

**PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD, AROUND, WITHIN, ABOVE,  
BEYOND THE GRASP OF HUMAN MIND, BUT WHOM WE KNOW AS LOVE.  
IN THESE TUMULTUOUS DAYS, SO FULL OF HOPE AND STRIFE,  
MAY WE BEAR WITNESS TO THE WAY, O SOURCE AND GOAL OF LIFE.**

### **CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Let us join our voices together in a unison prayer of confession:

**Most holy, most forgiving, and most loving God,  
we admit to you and to each other,  
that we are weak ones who foolishly and thoughtlessly choose darkness over  
the bright light of your grace.**

**Together, we admit our weakness and submit to you all our foolishness and  
thoughtlessness; our pride and vanity; our short-sightedness and lack of  
wisdom; our inability to change for the better and our reluctance to ask for  
your guidance.**

**Please forgive the pain and oppression we continue to visit upon others;  
restore in us the bright light of hope and cleanse our hearts and minds  
We beseech you, Lord, soften our hearts and strengthen our will to follow you.  
In the name of our Lord, Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen!**

Friends, hear this good news: Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

**Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old is finished and gone,  
everything has become fresh and new.**

Believe the good news of the Gospel!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

Let us share this peace with one another.

## Service of the Word

**POEM**

**“SO MANY IDOLS WORSHIPED AND ADORED”**

**BY LYN DENNIS**

So many idols worshiped and adored  
so much competition wanting to score  
Wanting to be best in all that they do  
all this will end when love shines through  
No more lifting man on pedestals high  
that they are idols man cannot deny  
They see them as heroes whom they defend  
but all this behavior will come to an end  
All things placed higher than Father God  
those things worshiped by angry mobs  
Will be shaken...destroyed see them crash to the ground  
soon all these idols will never be found  
People will worship only one  
the great I AM Gods own son  
The only one worthy to be lifted high  
the way the Truth the Gate the Light  
So many idols worshiped and adored  
watch them crash down to be no more!

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Please, join me in prayer.

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened.  
Amen.

*Reader 1* A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 8, verses 1 through 13:

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

*Reader 2* Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

*Reader 1* It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

*Reader 2* For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

**SERMON**

**ELI ELISHA (1/27), BOB GARVEY (1/30)**

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Let us implore the Lord our God praying as a community,

“Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew your right Spirit within us.”

We pray for leaders of the Church.  
May they serve as examples  
to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life.  
May the Church place its hope in you, O God,  
and not in human wisdom.

*Silence*

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew your right Spirit within us.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations, and for the new leaders of this nation.  
May they show mercy and advocate for the rights of the people.  
May they, like Moses, seek the greater good rather than their own interests

*Silence*

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew your right Spirit within us.**

We pray for the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.  
Make them hear of joy and gladness,  
that broken bodies and broken spirits may rejoice.  
We lift up before you these persons in your tender care...  
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

*Silence*

**Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew your right Spirit within us.**

We trust to your mercy, O God, all who have died.  
May they rest eternally in your peace.  
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, our God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever.

*Silence*

Create in us clean hearts, O God,  
and renew your right Spirit within us. AMEN

## Service of the Table

OFFERTORY

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY SONG

“BE THOU MY VISION”

UMH 451

**BE THOU MY VISION, O LORD OF MY HEART; NAUGHT BE ALL ELSE TO ME SAVE THAT THOU ART.  
THOU MY BEST THOUGHT BY DAY OR BY NIGHT, WAKING OR SLEEPING THY PRESENCE MY LIGHT.**

**BE THOU MY WISDOM, AND THOU MY TRUE WORD; I EVER WITH THEE AND THOU WITH ME, LORD;  
THOU AND THOU ONLY, FIRST IN MY HEART, GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN, MY TREASURE THOU ART.**

**GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN, MY VICTORY WON, MAY I REACH HEAVEN’S JOYS, O BRIGHT HEAVEN’S SUN!  
HEART OF MY OWN HEART, WHATEVER BEFALL, STILL BE MY VISION, O RULER OF ALL.**

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

God is with you! **And also with you!**

Open your hearts! **We open our hearts to God!**

Let us give thanks to God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all this, You were God. Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, You will be God. Archangels sound the trumpets, angels teach us to sing, Saints pull us into Your presence.

And this is our song:

**Santo, santo, santo**

**Mi Corazon te adora,**

**Mi Corazon te sabe decir**

**Santo eres Dios**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! You beyond the galaxies, You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain, You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us Your image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the night; Your smile on Hagar, Sarah, and Abraham, Your hand with Moses and Miriam,...

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah – You lived as Jesus among us, healing teaching, dying, rising, and inviting us all to Your feast.  
And so we pray after Him: Our Friend, our Brother, ...

**...our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks;  
Broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying:

“Take and eat this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for  
the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Holy God, we remember Your Son, His life with the humble, His death among the  
wretched, His resurrection for us all:

Your wisdom our guide, Your justice our strength, Your grace our way to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy: **Mercy!**

And so we cry, Glory: **Glory!**

And so we cry, Blessing: **Blessing!**

Holy God, we beg for Your Spirit. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out  
for each other. Transfigure our minds, ignite Your church, nourish the life of the  
earth. Make us, while many, united; make us, though broken, whole; make us,  
despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**  
And so the whole earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit: **Come, Holy Spirit!**

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three – our life, our mercy, our might,  
our table, our food, our server, our rainbow, our ark, our dove,...  
...our sovereign, our water, our wine, our light, our treasure, our tree,  
our way, our truth, our life – You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!  
Praise now, praise tomorrow, praise forever! **Amen!**

## Going Forth as the Body of Christ

**\*CLOSING SONG**

**“MORE LOVE TO YOU, O CHRIST”**

**NCH 456**

**MORE LOVE TO YOU, O CHRIST, MORE LOVE TO YOU! HEAR NOW THE PRAYER I MAKE FAITH TO RENEW:  
IN ALL I SAY AND DO, MORE LOVE, O CHRIST TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU.**

**ONCE EARTHLY JOY I CRAVED, SOUGHT PEACE AND REST; NOW YOU ALONE I SEEK, GIVE WHAT IS BEST:  
IN ALL I SAY AND DO, MORE LOVE, O CHRIST TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU.**

**THEN SHALL MY LATEST BREATH WHISPER YOUR PRAISE; THIS BE THE PARTING CRY MY HEART SHALL  
RAISE:**

**IN ALL I SAY AND DO, MORE LOVE, O CHRIST TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU.**

**IN ALL I SAY AND DO, MORE LOVE, O CHRIST TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU, MORE LOVE TO YOU.**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING & POSTLUDE**

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

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**Cover Art:** Harron, Maurice. *Hands Across the Divide*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55420> [retrieved July 8, 2020]. Original source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27Hands Across the Divide%27\\_sculpture,\\_Derry.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%27Hands Across the Divide%27_sculpture,_Derry.jpg)

**Call to Worship:** Beth Merrill Neel - *Hold Fast to What is Good* (Blog), <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

**Poem:** Lyn Dennis, "So Many Idols Worshiped and Adored," *All Poetry*, <https://allpoetry.com/poem/12561450-So-Many-Idols-Worshiped-and-Adored-by-Lyn-Dennis>, accessed July 9, 2020.

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

**Prayer of the Community:** written by Father Jeremiah Williamson, rearranged by Seminary Chapel Team, <http://jeremiahwilliamson.blogspot.ca/>, accessed July 9, 2020.

**Communion Liturgy:** Modified "Triple Praise" – A Eucharist Liturgy by Gail Ramshaw from *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services with Adaptations*.

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

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**LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM**

Stephanie Dorsey, Jeremy Edwards, Rose Shepley, Rev. Scott Siciliano,  
Hyiwot Teshome, Kellie Turner, Jennifer Weitzel  
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.