

# VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

August 26 and 29, 2020



“But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.”

~ Exodus 1:17 (NRSV)



ORDINARY TIME

# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WE SHALL OVERCOME”

UMH 533

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
we shall overcome someday!  
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe  
we shall overcome someday!

We'll walk hand in hand...

We shall all be free...

We shall live in peace...

The Lord will see us through...

## GREETING

In the name of Jesus Christ,  
who calls us to seek justice and resist evil,  
to love and serve others,  
let us worship.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One        At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Many       **Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

**Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

## OPENING HYMN

## "THE OPEN TABLE"

MARK A. MILLER

1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. God is love; Love is cre - at - ing \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Share your joys, and bring your tears. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ some - thing new, right here, right now. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Known by name, here at the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Strength and hope found at the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ We're chil - dren of God, here at the

ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_ wel - come  
 ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_  
 ta - ble, \_\_\_\_\_ this ta - ble; \_\_\_\_\_

here, to the ta - ble of love. \_\_\_\_\_ love.

## 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

### “REFUGEE MOTHER AND CHILD”

CHINUA ACHEBE

No Madonna and Child could touch  
Her tenderness for a son  
She soon would have to forget. . . .  
The air was heavy with odors of diarrhea,  
Of unwashed children with washed-out ribs  
And dried-up bottoms waddling in labored steps  
Behind blown-empty bellies. Other mothers there  
Had long ceased to care, but not this one:  
She held a ghost-smile between her teeth,  
And in her eyes the memory  
Of a mother's pride. . . .She had bathed him  
And rubbed him down with bare palms.  
She took from their bundle of possessions  
A broken comb and combed  
The rust-colored hair left on his skull  
And then—humming in her eyes—began carefully to part it.  
In their former life this was perhaps  
A little daily act of no consequence  
Before his breakfast and school; now she did it  
Like putting flowers on a tiny grave.

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

### EXODUS 1:8 – 2:10

### NRSV

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, “Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.”

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to

bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews' children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

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

## **SERMON**

**INTERIM PRESIDENT DR. DAVID ROWE**

## **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**

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**“CHILD OF GOD”**

**MARK A. MILLER**

**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 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 Kindom, 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**

**“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”**

**AAHH 498**

Let there be peace on earth,  
and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator,  
family all are we.  
Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take  
Let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**“CHILD OF GOD”**

**INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE**

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**Cover Art:** Solomon, Simeon, 1840-1905. Mother of Moses, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57539> [retrieved June 7, 2020]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simeon\\_Solomon\\_-\\_The\\_Mother\\_of\\_Moses.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Simeon_Solomon_-_The_Mother_of_Moses.jpg).

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

**Call to Worship:** Rev. Leslie Penrose - [https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_immigration\\_worship\\_call-to-worship](https://www.ucc.org/justice_immigration_worship_call-to-worship)

**Opening Song:** Mark A. Miller, "Open Table," copyright 2015, Choristers Guild, all rights reserved, reprinted under permission.

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

**Poem:** Chinua Achebe, "Refugee Mother And Child," <https://sueddie.wordpress.com/2014/02/02/refugee-mother-and-child-a-poem-by-chinua-achebe/>

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

**Offertory and Closing Song:** Mark A. Miller, "Child of God," copyright 2015, Choristers Guild, all rights reserved, reprinted under permission.

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

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## LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL WORSHIP TEAM

Stephanie Dorsey, Jeremy Edwards, Rose Shepley,

Scott Siciliano, Hyiwot Teshome, Kellie Turner, Jennifer Weitzel

Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, 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.