



“Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.”

~ Psalm 25:6 (NRSV)



Gathering as the Body of Christ.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS

CENTERING SONG

“MORE THAN ANYTHING”

LAMAR CAMPBELL

I lift my hands in total adoration unto you
You reign on the throne for you are God and God alone
Because of you my cloudy days are gone
I can sing to you this song
I just want to say that I love you more than anything
[Bridge:]
Love me in your arms
You were my shelter from the storm
When all my friends were gone
You were right there all along
I never knew a love like this before, oh
I just want to say that I love you more than anything
[Chorus:]
I love you Jesus
I worship and adore you
Just want to tell you
Lord, I love you more than anything

GREETING

Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. **AMEN.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Presider We pray that your Spirit will hover over us to enable us to separate, with you,

Many the light from the darkness in the change that seeks to shape us, and which we seek creatively to shape.

We pray that your Spirit life us and encourage us to keep getting up and going on,

no matter how many times we have tripped up and fallen crying down.

We pray that your Spirit empower us to crack the smothering crust of deadening habits

and goad us to set out after fresh dreams.

We pray that your Spirit liberate and lead us in laboring for healing the broken, justice for the exploited, chances for the oppressed,

peace for the violated and the violent of the earth.

So move in and among us that we may grow in your Spirit, rejoice in your kingdom,

and live with passion this amazing life that, by your grace, is in us and that we are gratefully in. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

AAAH #158

The gendered, 16th century language is retained in this hymn out of faithfulness to the theologies and musical traditions of many Black congregations

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy Faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, hear our prayer:

For the mending of our hearts, torn apart by our unkindness;
For the healing of our souls, wasting away from the despair around us;
For the forgiveness we seek for the sin we have allowed to persist;
For the reconciliation of the world, whose division condemns us;
We pray for the courage to admit our fault,
The strength to amend our actions,
And the hope that your grace awaits us.
Through Christ we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

Amen.

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

“THAT BLESSED HOPE” FRANCES WATKINS HARPER

Oh! crush it not, that hope so blest,
Which cheers the fainting heart,
And points it to the coming rest,
Where sorrow has no part.

Tear from my heart each worldly prop,
Unbind each earthly string,
But to this blest and glorious hope,
Oh! let my spirit cling.

It cheer'd amid the days of old,
Each holy patriarch's breast;
It was an anchor to their souls,
Upon it let me rest.

When wandering in dens and caves,
In sheep and goat skins dress'd,
A peel'd and scatter'd people learned
To know this hope was blest.

Help me, amid this world of strife,
To long for Christ to reign,
That when He brings the crown of life,
I may that crown obtain

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Please, join me in prayer.
Help us know your ways, O Lord!
Prepare us to receive your Word,
that we might be led in your truth,
to travel on the path you provide
for our fullness of life.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 25:1-10, 16-18

NRSV

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Together: Thanks be to God!

SONG OF RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU”

AAAH 137

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **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.

Creator God, we lift our hearts to you
because you made the universe from nothing
and formed human beings in your image from the dust of the earth.
In Adam you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes,
and yet in Abraham and Moses
you called a people out of wilderness and slavery.

You showed your face to your people in exile,
and in Christ, the new Adam, you raised your children
to new life out of the ashes of sin and death.
And so we gladly praise and thank you,
with angels and archangels and the company of heaven,
singing your unending praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Redeemer God, over forty days you flooded the earth,
over forty years you led your people through the wilderness,
and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert.
Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink
to profess your Son's death and resurrection.

Send your Holy Spirit, that we may come
to resemble and follow our crucified and risen Savior,
and that this bread and this cup may become for us
our everlasting banquet,
the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”
After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness,
lead them to your heart.
Where your people are hungry for you,
give them practices of fasting and scripture reading
and almsgiving and repentance and prayer.
Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments,
hardships and calamities,
visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

Raise up the glory of your resurrection
from the ashes of our pride, and sloth, and greed,
that all your church and the whole creation
may celebrate the wonders of your love,
until the day when every eye shall see you
and every tongue shall praise you, and you are all in all,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Amen

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

CLOSING SONG

“EVERY PRAISE”

HEZEKIAH WALKER

Every praise is to our God, every word of worship in one accord;
Every praise, every praise is to our God.
Sing hallelujah to our God; glory hallelujah is due our God;
Every praise, every praise is to our God.

*God my Savior, God my Healer, God my Deliverer,
Yes [God] is! Yes [God] is!*

BENEDICTION

SENDING

*“I am grateful to have been loved, and to be loved now and to be able to love.
Because love liberates.” — Maya Angelou*

POSTLUDE

INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

Cover Art: Turner, Kellie, Kenya, 2017.

Greeting: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5115/worship-connection-june-28-2020>, accessed, July 2, 2020, "Opening Prayer," Nancy C. Townley, May 25th, 2020

Call to Worship: Loder, Ted. My Heart in My Mouth. "Hover Over Us." 2000. Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, MN.

Confession and Assurance: <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>, accessed June 9, 2020, adapted for our service

Poem: Watkins Harper, Frances. "That Blessed Hope," Poems | Academy of American Poets," 1846. <https://poets.org/poem/blessed-hope>

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from *Eucharistic Prayers* by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 201.

Closing Song: "Every Praise," written by David Bratton & Hezekiah Walker. <http://www.songlyrics.com/hezekiah-walker/every-praise-lyrics/>

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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.