

VIRTUAL CHAPEL SERVICE

September 2 and 5, 2020



“The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how
the Egyptians oppress them.”

~ Exodus 3:9 (NRSV)



ORDINARY TIME

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“WE ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND”

AAHH 183

REPRISE:

**We Are Standing On Holy Ground
And I Know, I Know There Are Angels All Around
Let Us Praise, Jesus Christ
For We Are Standing In His Presence On Holy Ground**

**When I Walked Through The Doors I Sensed His Presence
And I Knew This Was A Place Where Love Abounds
For This Is A Temple, The God We Love Abides Here
Oh, We Are Standing In His Presence On Holy Ground**

REPRISE

**In His Presence I Know There Is Joy Beyond All Measure
And At His Feet, Sweet Peace Of Mind Can Still Be Found
For When We Have A Need He Is Still The Answer
Oh, Reach Out And Claim It For We Are Standing On Holy Ground**

REPRISE

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One God calls us from a burning bush.

Many **We are standing on holy ground!**

Jesus calls us from the cross: come and follow me.

We are standing on holy ground!

OPENING HYMN

“THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE”

NCH 24

**The God of Abraham praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

**God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will;
God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep written on the human heart, in every land.**

**God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
All praise the living God! Extol that hallowed name,
who was, and is, and ever shall be still the same!**

**The God of Sarah praise, all praises to God's name,
who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears;
the First, the Last: beyond all thought through timeless years!**

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 “IF YOU STAND FOR NOTHING YOU WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING”

LYDIA PRESTON

A time has come
and it is now.
Will you take a stand
or bend your knee and bow?

Will you state your case?
Will you run this race
or turn in disgrace,
try to hide your face?

You've spoken the word,
and by many were heard.
Now what will you do
when it's left up to you?

Will you act out your faith
in the midst of a trial?
Will you do what is right?
Will you put up a fight?

When you're put at a cross-road,
what choice will you make?
Will you stand for the truth
for the Lord's name sake?

Do what is right;
try not to lose sight.
make the right decision

amidst all the derision.

For when you've done all to stand,
take a hold of God's hand.
he will lead you and guide you,
staying right there beside you.

Don't try to please man
doing all that you can.
make time for the Lord;
you will reap a reward.

Be a blessing to others;
help your sisters and brothers.
Care for those in need.
Help multiply their seed.

Be gracious and faithful.
Be fair and be true,
looking not unto others.
Let the change come through you.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 3:1 – 15

NRSV

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their

sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

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

SERMON

REV. DR. VANESSA LOVELACE

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

Presider 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 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

“HERE I AM, LORD”

UMH 593

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

REPRISE:

Here I am, Lord
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord
If You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

REPRISE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“HERE I AM, LORD”

INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

Cover Art: Burning Bush, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55946> [retrieved June 11, 2020]. Original source:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/earsaregood/3564534366/>.

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

Call to Worship: Ministry Matters: Laura Jaquith Bartlett, author. From *The Abingdon Worship Annual*, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press. https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/author/laura_bartlett

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

Poem: Lydia Preston, "If You Stand for Nothing You Will Fall for Anything," Published by Family Friend Poems on 04/12/2018.

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

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