

STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE 2018

Worship for Monday Evening, September 24, 2018; 7:00 P.M.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC



CALL TO WORSHIP [DAVID STIPP-BETHUNE, AMY MENDEZ, RENE MYERS]

{images for the screen and live speaking the voiced parts at the lectern/pupit}

David 1: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord.
Amy 2: All. Wait.
Rene 3: Upon you.



Amy 2: You give them their food in due season.
Rene 3: You give **food**.
David 1: Food. When we need it.



Rene 3: You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
David 1: You open your hand.
Amy 2: Your Hand.



David 1: You satisfy.
Amy 2: The desire of all
Rene 3: All the living things.



Amy 2: Thanks be to you.
Rene 3: THANKS be to you.
David 1: Thanks be TO YOU, O Lord.

In Unison: AMEN.



OPENING PRAYER [DAVID STIPP-BETHUNE]

[Image for screen during prayer]



Let us pray:

God of all that is, seen and unseen, we gather with grateful hearts. You have called us away from home with reason and purpose, to share in the gifts you have prepared and promises to fulfill.

Bless we who have come from far and near; and bless those that we have left behind. Give us courage to surrender ourselves to you that you might make us holy. Strengthen us by your Spirit that you might give us a bold witness. Attune us to your word that we might be gifted with your grace, hope, and love for all people.

Help us let down our guard; open us to your Holy Spirit. And when this worship is ended, send us away equipped with joy.

AMEN.

* OPENING HYMN #401—PURPLE “Gather Us In” [verses 1-4]

[Follow lyrics on screen]

* CALL TO CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION [NEIL BULLOCK] [Follows, "Gather Us In"]

[Image for screen during Confession]



[The Worship Leader invites the congregation to a time of Confession/Reconciliation.]

People of God:

God has given us a sign showing that love is stronger than death. The sign of the cross points to our exodus from bondage to sin.

So, this is the place to give up our ingratitude, our selfishness, our resentment—and begin a new journey.

So together, let us repent, seek God's forgiveness, and enter into new life in Christ.

I invite you to rise in body or in spirit as you are able, and please join a reflective prayer of confession, allowing you to name in your own mind, your confession, during the silences.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, who called us from home to this place and time, hear us when we are tempted to treat safe passage as a dirge; when we are pleased to complain about our travel discomforts and what we had to endure, and slow to recognize your love in those around us.

[TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSIONS]

Holy One, who calls us out of daily routines into new life, hear us as we confess the fear, regret, and timidity that have kept us from your life; may we shed our wantonness of the familiar to take up new opportunities, where your grace will sustain us.

[TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSIONS]

Holy One, calling us from death to life, release us from having judged others, set us free from hurts we have inflicted, and help us to know how we have complied with the world in denying justice and righteousness; help us amend what is wrong inside of us.

[TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSIONS]

Holy One, we are sorry for dragging our feet, for resisting your good news, for the ways we refuse to share your gifts with others; we want these things to change, and we take this opportunity to be changed once more by your love.

[TIME OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSIONS]

Holy One, transform us. Let us not be held hostage by our past, but let us embrace your new day, entrusting ourselves and all that we have—to you alone.

In the name of the one who claims and loves us and makes us your own, O God. AMEN.

[Image during Assurance of Forgiveness]

* ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

I'll invite you each to find a partner, next to you or near where you are.

...Turn and face each other, looking directly into your partner's face and eyes.

...Now decide which of you will speak first.

...Now, please repeat after me:

**Hear the good news: | Christ is merciful | to all who turn to him. |
In the name of Jesus Christ, | YOU are forgiven. |**

Now, the second person, please repeat after me:

**Hear the good news: | Christ is merciful | to all who turn to him. |
In the name of Jesus Christ, | YOU are forgiven. |**

Thanks be to God!

* SUNG RESPONSE #582 G2G "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

[Follow lyrics on screen]



WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [STEFANIE MARSDEN]

[Image(s) while Scripture is read]



Let us pray.

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts—a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Before the readings:

Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES, FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS; FROM CHAPTER 12, VERSES 1-2:

Reading from The Message translation of the Bible by Eugene Peterson:



So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for God. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF
GENESIS, FROM CHAPTER 47, VERSES 13-26:



¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe. The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. ¹⁴ Joseph collected all the money to be found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁵ When the money from the land of Egypt and from the land of Canaan was spent, all the Egyptians came to Joseph, and said, "Give us food! Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone." ¹⁶ And Joseph answered, "Give me your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." ¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph; and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. That year he supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock. ¹⁸ When that year was ended, they came to him the following year, and said to him, "We can not hide from my lord that our money is all spent; and the herds of cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands. ¹⁹ Shall we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food. We with our land will become slaves to Pharaoh; just give us seed, so that we may live and not die, and that the land may not become desolate."

²⁰ So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe upon them; and the land became Pharaoh's. ²¹ As for the people, he made slaves of them from one end of Egypt to the other. ²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh, and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land. ²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Now that I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh, here is seed for you; sow the land. ²⁴ And at the harvests you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." ²⁵ They said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be slaves to Pharaoh." ²⁶ So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth. The land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Thanks be to God.

[Image during the Sermon]

SERMON

[LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA]



RESPONSE

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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HYMN #770 G2G “I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table” [verses 1-4]

[Follow lyrics on screen]

INVITATION TO PRESENT GOD'S TITHES, OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Video: [<https://www.facebook.com/theworkofthepeople/videos/10156430914970682/>]

[Image during taking of the Offering]



INTERPRETATION OF THE OFFERING DESIGNATION [RENE MYERS]

- 1/3 to support Metropolitan Congregations United
- 1/3 to support PDA
- 1/3 to support Lutheran World Relief.

OFFERTORY [AMY MENDEZ]

[Instructions for receiving the offering.]

CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

[LARISSA AND CHICK]

(A poem by Jan Richardson)

Larissa will give instructions about the "we come" part for the gathered congregation.



Larissa: To your table you bid us come. You have set the places, you have poured the wine, and there is always room, you say, for one more. And so **we come.**

Chick: From the streets and from the alleys **we come.**

Chick: From the deserts and from the hills **we come.**

Larissa: From the ravages of poverty and from the palaces of privilege **we come.**

Larissa: limping, carried, **we come.**

Larissa: We are bloodied with our wars, we are wearied with our wounds, we carry our dead within us, and we reckon with their ghosts.

Chick: We hold the seeds of healing, we dream of a new creation, we know the things that make for peace, and we struggle to give them wings.

Larissa: And yet, to your table **we come.**

Chick: Hungering for your bread, **we come.**

Larissa: thirsting for your wine, **we come.**

Chick: singing your song in every language, speaking your name in every tongue, in conflict and in communion, in discord and in desire, **we come.**

Larissa and Chick: O God of Wisdom, **we come.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

[CHICK, LARISSA, VOICES FROM THE CONGREGATION]

Chick: As participants in Stewardship Kaleidoscope, children are the most few in number. So we are intentional about including a reminder for you to think about and plan stewardship in your ministry setting with children in mind. The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving we are using is modeled after the Jewish practice of the youngest child asking questions at the Passover Seder. Tonight, you'll hear different voices, from among the congregation as we pray together.

The congregational responses will appear on the screen at the times in which you say them in unison.

[Follow liturgy on screen]

Voice #1 [Matt Sauer]: Why do we give thanks and praise before this table?

Congregation: **We give thanks for God's work of creation and salvation.**

Chick: It is our greatest joy, creator God, to give you thanks in every time and place. you made the heavens and the earth and all that is in them—sun, moon, and stars, mountains, rivers, and trees, animals and people.

You even made us in your own image to love and serve you, and you show us your mercy every day. Therefore with all people and all creation, we shout your praise:

Congregation: **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 your name. Hosanna in the highest.**

Larissa: All glory and blessing are yours, Saving God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. Born a child like us, he grew up to be your servant. Jesus taught your truth. He welcomed, healed, forgave, and loved people.

In the end, he suffered and died to save us from our sin. And God raised him up, to give us a new life. We praise you that before he died, our Savior gave us this holy meal to eat together until he comes again.

Voice #2 [Valerie Young]: Why do we eat bread at this table?

Chick: On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Voice #3 [David Duquette]: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

Larissa: The same night, Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

Voice #4 [Sandy Wagener]: What do we remember at this table?

Larissa: We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. And remembering, we offer ourselves and our gifts for the world.

Congregation: **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

Voice #5 [Jason Leonard]: What do we ask at this table?

Chick: Merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that in eating and drinking together we may be made one with Christ and with one another. At this table we ask for unity in Christ our Lord, and we ask for strength to serve the world in his name until the day you make all things new.

Congregation: **Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.**

Larissa: As Jesus teaches us, let us pray to the God who gives us birth.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP [CHICK AND LARISSA]

Chick can lead the breaking of the bread and Larissa the pouring of the cup followed by the invitation to the Table.



* COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Larissa offers any communion instructions.

[There will be 4 communion stations]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

[CHICK LANE]

Chick invites all those present to join in the communal prayer after communion.

[Follow text on screen]

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope that you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

* HYMN #772 G2G “Live Into Hope” [verses 1-4]

[Follow lyrics on screen]



* ANNOUNCEMENTS [DAVID STIPP-BETHUNE]

Someone from the Planning Team reminds worshippers that there's Dessert and Hospitality following worship.

Instructions regarding location and drink tickets.

* BENEDICTION & CHARGE [LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA]

* RECESSIONAL MUSIC

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