

STEWARDSHIP KALEIDOSCOPE 2018

Worship for Wednesday Morning, September 26, 2018; 11:15 A.M.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC #155 G2G “Raise a Song of Gladness”

[Lyrics on screen]

It would be great if the music leader could help teach the song as a round.



OPENING PRAYER [CHICK LANE]

[Text responses on screen]

Let us pray:

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Hear our prayers for your church and world:

For the hungry and the overfed,
May we have enough;

For the mourners and the mockers,
May we laugh together;

For the victims and the oppressors,
May we share power wisely;

For the peacemakers and the warmongers,
May clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;

For the silenced and the propagandists,
May we speak our own words in truth;

For the unemployed and the overworked,
May our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;

For the troubled and the secure,
May we live together as wounded healers;

For the homeless and the pampered,
May our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;

For the vibrant and the dying,
May we all die to sin and live to love. Amen.

Repeat opening song.

HYMN #155 G2G "Raise a Song of Gladness"

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [MARK STAUFFER]



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.

SCRIPTURE READING: Reading Romans 12: 1-2 and Matthew 19: 16-26, together [MARK STAUFFER and LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA]

It would be best if the musicians can play music behind the Scripture reading and lead up to the song each time. (LKA)

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ ***“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”*** ♪

[Lyrics on screen]

[Larissa] Reader #1: ¹⁶ Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?”



[Mark] Reader #2: **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.**

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ ***“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”*** ♪



[Larissa] Reader #1: And Jesus said, “You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰ The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?”

[Mark] Reader #2: **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.**

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ ***“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”*** ♪



[Larissa] Reader #1: ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

[Mark] Reader #2: **Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.**

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ ***“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”*** ♪



[Larissa] Reader #1: ²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, “Then who can be saved?”

[Mark] Reader #2: Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it.

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ *“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”* ♪



[Larissa] Reader #1: ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.”

[Mark] Reader #2: 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.

Hymn #820 (Nothing Can Trouble)

[Lyrics on screen]

♪ *“Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.”* ♪

[Text on screen]

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.



RESPONSE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

[LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA]

Remembering the grace God has poured out upon us and trusting in the future God has promised to us, let us give thanks to God for the gift of baptism.

[Text on screen]

Marked, claimed, cleansed, and called, through the gift of baptism,

We are yours, O God.

[Pouring of the water]

Your breath moved over the chaos in the beginning. Your feet danced with Miriam at the edge of the sea. Your voice tore through the clouds at the river Jordan. Your heart broke on the cross when you poured out your life for us. Your hands caught fish for Easter breakfast on the shoreline. Your tears water your thirsty world as the rain. Your fingers mark our foreheads with abiding grace, perfect freedom, holy truth. Through the gift of baptism,

We are yours, O God.

[Pouring of the water]

You wash us with grace, you anoint us with promise. You feed us with mercy, You fill us with joy. Fruit of the earth, watered and fed, we remember: in baptism we are risen to new life in Christ—forgiven sinners, beloved children of the covenant. Through the gift of baptism,

We are yours, O God.

[Pouring of the water]

Thanks and praise to you, O holy, triune God, today, tomorrow, and forever.

We are yours, O God. AMEN.

Larissa will give instructions about the disappearing paper.

[Lyrics on screen]

* HYMN #488 “I Was There to Hear your Boring Cry” [verses 1-4]

[If needed, if we aren't finished at the fonts, a second hymn...]

[Lyrics on screen]

* HYMN #475 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” [verses 1-3]

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance!

And the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Instructions for Greeting one another.]

[Lyrics on screen]

* SUNG RESPONSE #591 G2G “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!”

[Refrain only (?)]



SENDING

INVITATION TO PRESENT GIFTS AND OFFERINGS [MAGGIE HARMON]

Martha Moore Keish recently wrote:

Most U.S. mainline Protestants share an assumption about what "offering" means, and how it is done. "Offering" means the collection of money in worship, usually in plates passed down the rows of worshipers, sometime after the sermon. This is a time-honored practice ...that most congregations do every Sunday.

She suggests our well-used practice is historically and theologically problematic. The early church was not "collecting" money, they were focused on the action of *feeding* the community. Money might be one way to do that, but it is not the only way.

As a way of renewing how we look at what we offer, based on understanding what we have received from God let's try something different. Moore-Keish suggests literally moving the offering from out of worship and into action. Place a collection box in the narthex or lobby and let people practice giving as they come and go so that this becomes a part of how we live our lives in everything we do. Giving can happen anywhere, and it should happen everywhere.

As Moore-Keish says, giving becomes a response to God's gracious giving which has nourished us through water and word, bread and wine.

So we are trying something new. Giving stations have been set up near the doors as an active response to God's gracious gifts that we have received!

INTERPRETATION OF THE OFFERING DESIGNATION [MAGGIE HARMON]

Your generous gifts will be collected, added to our offering on Monday Evening, and divided equally between:

- Metropolitan Congregations United in St. Louis
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Lutheran World Relief.



* PRAYER OF DEDICATION [MAGGIE HARMON]

Will you join me in prayer.

God of all mercies, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all living things.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and forever.
AMEN.

[Lyrics on screen]

* CLOSING HYMN #543 G2G “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” [verses 1-5]

* BENEDICTION & CHARGE [LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA]

* RECESSIONAL / DISMISSAL MUSIC

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