

Calvary

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



Above: A Rainbow Eucalyptus

"The whole, holy creation
waits in eager longing for
the next thing to come"
- Romans 8:19

July 12, 2020
6th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Our Way In

"Spirit of the Living God" (UMH 393)

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me. (x2)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God,

Fall afresh on me.

Invitation to Holy Presence: Opening Breath Prayer / Meditation

Listen to a virtual choir of over 300 diverse voices singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" while you contemplate the earth, creation, and yourself in this moment of time.

Call to Worship (Isaiah 43: 1-3a, 4-7; 4c; 1d)

The Psalm Response is: "We will pass through the waters."

ALL: We will pass through the waters.

One: But now, says our God, the one Who created you,
Who formed you: "Do not fear, for I have freed you. I have called you by name. You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; When you pass through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

ALL: We will pass through the waters.

ONE: "For I am your God, the Holy One, the One Who makes you whole. You are precious in My sight, and honored, and I love you. I would give all of Who I am, My life, for you. Do not fear, for I am with you."

ALL: We will pass through the waters.

ONE: "I will gather unto Myself all children from the east, and those from the west I will hold in My arms. I will say to the north, 'Find your home in Me!' And to the south, 'Do not hold back.' For you are Mine: My sons from far away, My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, whom I created in glory and splendor, whom I formed and made. I love you, and you are mine."

ALL: We will pass through the waters.

Opening Hymn: "Blessed Assurance" (UMH #369)

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in the blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
(*Refrain*)

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,

filled with God's goodness, lost in God's love.

(Refrain)

Passing the Peace

ONE: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer

All: Divine reaper, who alone can judge without vengeance or fear: free us from our desire to repay evil with evil; root us in creation's longing for freedom from oppression; shape us by hope unseen for the victory of love; through Jesus Christ, with whom we suffer and are glorified. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "Clean Heart" (Calvary Choir)

Scripture Lesson:

New Testament: A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapter 8:19-25

The whole, holy creation waits in eager longing for the next thing to come. All around us we observe a pregnant creation. Creation is becoming. It was made that way - to be a process. We are on a journey, destined to be brought into the freedom at the heart of God.

The pain throughout the world is the groaning of birth pangs. And it's not only in the creation around us. It's within us. We ourselves groan inwardly. It is the Spirit of God stirring us within, awakening us to yet unseen possibilities. For it is hope that delivers us and sets us free. Now hope that has seen is not hope. For who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for for what we do not yet have, we

persevere with patience. And the waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant person. We are enlarged in the waiting. The longer we wait, the longer we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

ONE: The Word of the Apostle Paul.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Choral Alleluia

From *Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures* by John Henson

ONE: A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Matthew Chapter 13 verses 1 through 9 and 18 through 23.

All: Glory to you, O God.

1-9 Later on in the day Jesus left his lodgings and went to sit on the beach. He was mobbed by so many admirers, the only way he could get space for himself was to get into a boat. Then from the boat he spoke to the crowd on the beach. Jesus taught them many things by means of stories. This is how he began: "Listen, a farmer went out to sow his field. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the path and the birds swooped down and ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground and the shoots sprang up quickly as there wasn't enough soil for the plants to take root. When the sun came up they withered away. Some seed fell among the thistles. When the thistles grew the plants were choked. Other seeds fell into good soil and yielded a fine crop of grain, thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times what the farmer sowed. If you've got ears, use them!"

18-23 (Here is the solution to the riddle of the farmer sowing seed. The seed scattered on the path is when someone

hears about the New World and decides it's not for them. Evil makes quick work of the idea before it stands a chance. The seed on rocky ground refers to people who enjoy listening to a good talk, but don't take anything in. The moment they meet with hassle because of their beliefs or other difficulties, they give up. The seed sown among the thistles represents people who do at first take the message seriously. But they're distracted by anxiety to get on in the world and by greed, and their good intentions get crowded out. The seed sown on good ground stands for those who grasp what is said and really take it to heart. Their lives become worthwhile.)

ONE: The Gospel of God.

ALL: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Choral Alleluia

Sermon "Our Neighbors in West Philly: Our Earthly Neighbor"

Hymn of Response: "I'm Gonna Be Green" (Mark Miller)

I'm gonna be green, because I love the earth X3
The earth is our home.

Won't you be green, because you love the earth X3
The earth is our home.

Calvary wants to be green, because we love the earth X3
The earth is our home.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

“Thanks be to God” or “God, hear our prayer”

Prayer Response

Move Me, Move Me, Move Me to Do Thy Will

Move Me, Move Me, Move Me to Do Thy Will

Prayer of Confession/Pardon (Rev. Calvin Collins)

ONE: The wind of the spirit that breathes life into us has also called us to confess our wrongdoings to others to plead for forgiveness and to learn from our mistakes. Let us now forgive one another that we have not forgiven that we have withheld love from and that we have disregarded. Take these next few moments in silence to be contemplative of this call from the spirit. *(Silent prayer)*

...Let us pray:

ALL: Holy Spirit whose water flows in us, whose Spirit dwells from corner to corner, from east to west, as far and close as possible: May your omnipresence through virtual means comfort us and be with us in those times where we feel others have disregarded ourselves as well. Merciful spirit, compassionate love, stir up our hearts to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you as we go into the world to serve our siblings in creation. This we pray together. Amen.

One: God whose Spirit that is present in this water and spirit that is present in our souls have mercy on you forgive you all your wrongdoings through Jesus the liberator and our sibling bring you assurance of forgiveness of your wrongdoings and liberation from your mistreatments this day and always. Amen

ENGAGING

Closing hymn: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

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, siblings 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! (x2)

Benediction and Blessing

Singing Our Way Out: "Let the Church Say Amen"

Let the church say, "Amen" (*repeat*)

God has spoken, let the church say, "Amen"

Go in Peace ... Live in Peace

The service has ended. Our service to the community of West Philadelphia and the world continues!

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at the corner of spirituality & justice

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