

CALVARY

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



July 19, 2020

7th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Our Way In

Move Me, Move Me, Move Me to Do Thy Will
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Invitation to Holy Presence: Opening Breath Prayer / Meditation

Listen to a song from the Music Group Common Hymnal a song called ["Innocent Lives"](#). While hearing this and watching the music video, please comment a word or phrase in the comment section that reflects how you are feeling about our current situation of so many innocent lives being lost for so many reasons.

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

("All" led by Ursula Johnson)

One: The Psalm response is: *How great is our God.*

All: How great is our God.

One: God, You are kind and forgiving,
Abounding in steadfast love for all who pray.
Give ear to our prayer, Compassionate One.
Hear our heartfelt prayers.

All: How great is our God.

One: No one is like You, Source of All.
All creation reflects Your pride.
All the peoples You have created
Will offer their gifts in Your Name.

For You alone are great, O God,
And we are awed by the wonders of your Creation.

All: How great is our God.

One: You are tender and merciful, ready to forgive,
Slow to anger, all-loving and true.

Be present to us and be gracious to us.

Strengthen us with Your Wisdom.

Free all human beings.

Free us from all that hinders the fullness of life

That we may serve You well.

All: How great is our God.

Opening Hymn: "God, You have come to the Lakeshore"
(UMH #344)

God, You have come to the lakeshore
Looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.

(Refrain) O God, with Your eyes You have searched me
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By Your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
My boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there, my nets and labor.

(Refrain) O God, with Your eyes You have searched me
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By Your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands full of caring
Through my labors to give others rest
And constant love that keeps on loving.

(Refrain) O God, with Your eyes You have searched me
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By Your side I will seek other seas.

You, who have fished other oceans
Ever longed for by souls who are waiting
My loving friend, as thus You call me.

(Refrain) O God, with Your eyes You have searched me
And while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
By Your side I will seek other seas.

Passing the Peace

ONE: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer (*A Prayer for Dreamers* from bread.org)

One: God of all, we struggle to welcome those we don't know to join our communities.

All: Please guide our actions so we may be a reflection of your love.

One: We struggle to find common ground with those who are from different places and have different customs.

All: Please guide our words so we speak with charity and hospitality.

One: We struggle to remember our own times of transition and uncertainty.

All: Please send your Holy Spirit to challenge our assumptions.

One: May we continue to seek new ways to find you in our lives. May we *Share the Journey* with one another, every

day. We ask all this in your holy name, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music (dedicated today to Calvary Choir member Darlene Johnson) (Text: Psalm 121; Music: Theresa Marsh)

Scripture Lesson:

New Testament (read by Jennine Miller): A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans Chapter 8:26–27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness because we do not know how to pray as we ought. That very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches human hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit. Thus, the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the desire of God's heart.

ONE: The Word of the Apostle Paul.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Choral Alleluia

Gospel:

One: A Reading from The Gospel attributed to Matthew Chapter 13 verses 24-35.

All: Glory to you, O God.

Jesus proposed another parable to the disciples: 'The kin-dom of heaven may be compared to a land-owner who sowed good seed in their field. While everybody was asleep, however, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, then went away. So, when the shoots came up and the plants bore grain, weeds appeared as well.

The servants of the land-owner came and said, "We know you sowed good seed in your field. Where did these weeds come from?" The landowner responded, "Do you want us to go and pull the weeds?" The landowner replied, "No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot wheat along with them. Let the weeds and the wheat grow together until harvest. At harvest time, I will tell the reapers to collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, and then to gather the wheat into my barn." Jesus told the disciples another parable: 'The kin-dom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in their field. It is the smallest seed; but, when it has grown, It can become a great shrub, even a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' Jesus told them yet another parable: 'The kin-dom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

All these things Jesus spoke also to the crowds. Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables. He spoke to them only in parables. He did this to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

'I will open my mouth to speak in parables. I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.'

One: The Gospel of God.

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Choral Alleluia

Sermon "Our Neighbors in West Philly: Our Undocumented Neighbors"

Hymn of Response: "Sanctuary"

(TFWS 2164; v. 2-7 by Calvin Collins)

God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

God, we hear you. We pray and need you,
we are crying, and we care.
Many come here to find a home here,
we must welcome them with care.

Your love stretches beyond the oceans,
bridges, walls, and skies above,
We are pleading, help us to speak up,
pray, and hearken to the ones.

We need help, God. We need your love God,
we need patience, heart, and voice.
For our neighbors, that find an issue,
finding hope in places here.

God we have such a great concern,
for our neighbors great and small,
We need justice, rights, and lawyers
to be with our siblings here.

Sanctuary is such a blessing,
finding hope in times of pain,
Be our comfort, hope, and courage
towards the future with a flame.

A flame of love, God. A flame of hope, God.
A flame that lights the path we go,
With your help, God. We can serve our siblings
that are coming here.

God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

(Lay Leader: Kristine Morrow)

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

Prayer Response

“Lead Me, God” (UMH #473)

Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, God, you, you only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

Prayer of Confession/Pardon (Rev. Calvin Collins)

One: The Guardian of our Souls and Bodies encompasses this moment. We find ourselves in the midst of so much uncertainty. We find our world treating certain people better than others. We find that walls are being built instead of bridges. We know that is not the call of God and we know that it is not the heart of God.

We find ourselves drained in this moment. How can we go on when so much injustice happens day in and day out? How can we continue in this path of light to everyone including those that are pushed out, treated less than, and disregarded? We continue this journey, but we pause and pray. We take a moment and think of the things we have done in these moments that might have hurt our siblings. We think of the hurt that our siblings have

done to us. We know that is not of the heart of God. The heart of God yearns for reconciliation so we must reconcile ourselves to each other and to God.

Let us pause.

Breathe in and out. Take a moment to think about those wrongdoings that you have partaken in and those that have been done to you.

One: Let Us Pray

ALL: Guardian of our souls, we pray that you might extend your presence to us. Forgive us for our wrongdoings and mistreatments as we forgive those who have mistreated us as well. We know that this moment of time is difficult for so many. Give us strength to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your creation that you abide in. Amen.

One: May the Spirit that is present in this water and the Great Guardian encompass you and forgive you of your wrongdoings and mistreatments. May you find comfort in a liberating spirit of Justice and Peace for all. May this moment cause a stir within your soul to do something and when you've done so much, to rest and recuperate so that you can do more to bring God's Kin-dom and God's heart to each and every soul. Amen

ENGAGING

Closing hymn: "When We Are Living" (UMH #356)

(Solo: Lauren Ballester)

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in our God.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

En este mundo, hemos de encontrar
gente quellora y sin consolar.
Sea que a yudemos o que a limentemos,
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God; we belong to God.

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!*



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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at the corner of spirituality & justice

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JOHN LEWIS

1940 — 2020



Rest in Power Rep. John Lewis. Your time has come to rest. We must continue marching on towards victory and marching on towards justice and freedom for all!

Please keep the Lewis family, friends, and colleagues that are finding a void in life due to this tragic loss in your prayers and thoughts. Keep the memory of Rep. John Lewis alive in your heart and in this world by marching and

speaking up about injustices that exist and oppression that
is present.