

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 119:1-8)

***People who like roses:* Blessed are those who way is worthy, who will walk in the love of the LORD. Blessed are those who keep God's declarations, who seek God with their whole heart.**

***People who like candy:* Blessed are they who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways. God has invited us to keep God's ways diligently.**

***People who like hugs:* O that our ways may be steadfast in keeping your ways! Then we shall not be put to shame, having our eyes fixed on your ways.**

***People who like cards:* We will praise you with an upright heart, when we learn your righteous ways. We will observe them and not be forsaken.**

Opening Hymn #586 Come to Tend God's Garden

1. Come to tend God's Garden, seeds of hope to sow,
Planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!
In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant health!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!
2. As we tend God's Garden, from its furrows rise
Stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
Unity, our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!
3. May God's Garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
May God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
Charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!

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Words of Lament

Merciful God, this nation, of which we are citizens, has a very checkered past. Our nation has committed acts of genocide against the First Nations, enslaved a whole people for our economic benefit, and denied rights to the whole female gender, LGBTQ community and countless others, that still affects the present. We have worked to right some of the wrongs and bring equity and justice to all, but at a snail's pace. Rise up, stir yourself, and pull us out of comfort and privilege to quicken the pace of the work.

Time of Silence

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me
Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

- Howard Thurman, from "*Meditations of the Heart*"

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Matthew 5:21-37 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder,' and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹ "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced

woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say to you: Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵ or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

2nd Scripture 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (Common English Bible)

3 Brothers and sisters, I couldn’t talk to you like spiritual people but like unspiritual people, like babies in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink instead of solid food, because you weren’t up to it yet. ³ Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren’t you unspiritual and living by human standards? ⁴ When someone says, “I belong to Paul,” and someone else says, “I belong to Apollos,” aren’t you acting like people without the Spirit? ⁵ After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. ⁷ Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. ⁹ We are God’s coworkers, and you are God’s field, God’s building.

Choir Anthem

We Walk in Love

Message

God gives Growth

Musical Reflections

Communion Hymn #332 As We Gather at Your Table

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own.
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life.
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife,
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave.
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy.
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Contributors: Carl P Daw, Jack Schrader

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Communion (see insert)

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Mother God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Our Time of Giving

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

Closing Hymn #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions

1. In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever
more.

2. Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair.
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

Refrain:

3. As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes.
Grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.

Refrain:

4. We are man and we are woman, all persuasions old and young.
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Refrain:

5. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain.
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

Refrain:

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Benediction

Sending Music