

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK... WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

OCTOBER 24, 2021 WORSHIP OF WORD & SACRAMENT

The assembly is invited to speak as one where the words are in **bold** print.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

A poetic call to worship, for one voice.

If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God,
and if all of those things take place,
and your spirit is moved,
and you swear God is near,
and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith,
and then the service comes to an end,
and it's time for you to leave,
and you ask yourself,

"Where do we go from here?"

Then I would say to you,

"Go out into the world to love and to share and to learn,
but come back soon, because this is the beginning.

This is only the beginning.

So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here."
Let us worship Holy God.



SONG: UBI CARITAS

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

PRAYER:

Holy God, we know that you are always speaking— through strangers and friends, through sunrise and sunset, through random acts of kindness and feelings that stir hope awake in us. We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy. We know that you are always speaking, but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully we pray,

Amen.

READING: RUTH 1:1-22

THE FAMILY IN MOAB

¹ During the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. A man with his wife and two sons went from Bethlehem of Judah to dwell in the territory of Moab. ² The name of that man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the territory of Moab and settled there.

³ But Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died. Then only she was left, along with her two sons. ⁴ They took wives for themselves, Moabite women; the name of the first was Orpah and the name of the second was Ruth. And they lived there for about ten years.

⁵ But both of the sons, Mahlon and Chilion, also died. Only the woman was left, without her two children and without her husband.

⁶ Then she arose along with her daughters-in-law to return from the field of Moab, because while in the territory of Moab she had heard that the LORD had paid attention to his people by providing food for them.

⁷ She left the place where she had been, and her two daughters-in-law went with her. They went along the road to return to the land of Judah.

⁸ Naomi said to her daughters-in-law, "Go, turn back, each of you to the household of your mother. May the LORD deal faithfully with you, just as you have done with the dead and with me. ⁹ May the LORD provide for you

so that you may find security, each woman in the household of her husband.” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ But they replied to her, “No, instead we will return with you, to your people.”

¹¹ Naomi replied, “Turn back, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Will there again be sons in my womb, that they would be husbands for you? ¹² Turn back, my daughters. Go. I am too old for a husband. If I were to say that I have hope, even if I had a husband tonight, and even more, if I were to bear sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you refrain from having a husband? No, my daughters. This is more bitter for me than for you, since the LORD’s will has come out against me.”

¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth stayed with her.

¹⁵ Naomi said, “Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her gods. Turn back after your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to abandon you, to turn back from following after you. Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me and more so if even death separates me from you.” ¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

¹⁹ So both of them went along until they arrived at Bethlehem. When they arrived at Bethlehem, the whole town was excited on account of them, and the women of the town asked, “Can this be Naomi?”

²⁰ She replied to them, “Don’t call me Naomi, but call me Mara, for the Almighty has made me very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has returned me empty. Why would you call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has deemed me guilty?”

²² Thus Naomi returned. And Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, returned with her from the territory of Moab. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

REFLECTION: NOW WHAT? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WHAT OTHER QUESTIONS TO YOU HAVE?

SONG: DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE

Chorus:

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone, we’ll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

For who or for what are we joyous or concerned?

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood. It is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One of the holiest things about sharing a meal together is the conversation that accompanies it. Think back to the tables of your life—the kitchen table you grew up with as a child, cafeteria tables with friends, date night tables with your beloved, the table in your current home that has hosted meals with family and friends.

At all of these tables, conversation has flowed: “How are you? What do you need? How is work? How is your grief? When can I see you again? What are you learning these days? Tell me everything!” And there may be some tears, and there usually is some laughter. That is the holy thing about tables. They bring us together in conversation.

This Table is no different. Here at this Table all people are invited—no matter what you have done or left undone. And here at this Table we wear our hearts on our sleeves. Here at this table we are free to tell God the truths of our lives—where it hurts, what we need, where we’re from, and where we hope to go. And here at this Table we are not alone. We are surrounded by community, surrounded by connection.

So come to this Table—with your courage and your fear, with your curiosity and your doubt, with your hope and your vulnerability. God is here.

There is a seat saved for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

A bottle of sanitizer will go around the circle.

Pastor will come to you with the bread.

You will be given a small communion cup filled with wine.

Please place the cup into the bucket after worship.

SENDING SONG: BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY – BRET HASLA



1, 5. Give us bread for the jour - ney. Give us bread. Give us
2. Guide our way as we tra - vel. Guide our way. Guide our
3. Make us one with each oth - er. Make us one. Make us
4. Lead us home to the gar - den. Lead us home. Lead us



bread for the jour - ney. Give us bread. When our
way as we tra - vel. Guide our way. With so
one with each oth - er. Make us one. All the
home to the gar - den. Lead us home. Where we'll



legs are get - ting hea - vy and we're hang - ing down our
ma - ny roads be - fore us, where to go is hard to
walls we've built a - round us, may we learn to tear them
live with all cre - a - tion, find our place and nev - er



heads, give us bread for the jour - ney. Give us bread.
say. Guide our way as we tra - vel. Guide our way.
down. Make us one with each oth - er. Make us one.
roam. Lead us home to the gar - den. Lead us home.

Words and music by Bret Hesla.

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BLESSINGS AND SENDING

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to chose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you. In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself, go in peace.

Amen.

Music:

Sundays and Seasons

CCLI

Liturgy:

A sanctified art...