

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

March 10 and 13, 2021



*“I was formed in ancient times,  
at the beginning, before the earth was.”*

~ Proverbs 8:23 (CEB)



# Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“PLEASE COME”

NICHOLE NORDEMAN

*LITURGICAL MOVEMENT BY KARA YOUNG, MAR '15*

## GREETING

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! Wisdom is calling!  
Before all began,  
God , Word, and Wisdom  
Creating, calling,  
from the foundations of the deep

**Listen! Wisdom is calling!**  
**From the mountain tops**  
**Earth, fields and sea**  
**Creating, calling**  
**From the foundations of the deep.**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!  
To those who suffer  
God's love is given  
Endurance blossoms  
From the foundations of the deep

**Listen! Wisdom is calling!**  
**Daily, God's delight**  
**You, me, everyone**  
**Given hope, grace, love**  
**As the foundation of our lives**

Listen! Wisdom is calling!  
Poured into our hearts  
That we may become  
Christ's hand and heart, love  
As the foundation of our lives

**Listen! Wisdom is calling!**

**OPENING HYMN**

**"IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE"**

**NCH 1**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, your great Name we praise!**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might,  
your justice like mountains high soaring above,  
your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life giving-- to both great and small;  
in all life you're living the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,  
then wither and perish-- but naught dim your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,  
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we now render as your angels do:  
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.**

**CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Merciful God, whenever we seek you, love is what we find.  
**But you do not always find the same when you seek us.**  
Love is patient, **but often we are impatient.**

Love is kind, **but often we are rude.**

Love is not envious, **but we often covet.**

Love does not insist on its own way, **but we often do just that.**

Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, **but we often celebrate violence.**

Love never ends, **and yet we do not always seek your love as our ultimate purpose.**

Help us, loving God, **to shed our sin and reflect the light of your love.**

Guide us that we might have faith in your presence, that we might hope in your providence, and, above all, that we might live with your love as our muse. **Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Thanks be to God!

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

## **Service of the Word**

### **POEM**

**“GOD CREATED US” BY BIPIN CHURCHUNG RABHA**

God created us  
With flesh and bone  
For a several days  
In this illusory earth  
With some qualities  
Good and bad  
Love, hope, misery, courage,  
And the time so tight  
Which waits for none  
And passes in silence.

So, let us take note on  
Of our daily lives  
In every moment.

Rains are like God's promise  
Suddenly the rainbow painted  
Across the sky to the east  
Reminder that the rain  
Won't come hereafter  
And reminder to the west  
Look at the sunset  
Soon after would be disappearing  
For the day forever  
Tomorrow may differ  
So, let us take note on  
Of our daily lives  
In every moment.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **PROVERBS 8:22-36**

### **NRSV**

A reading from Proverbs, chapter 8, verses 22 through 36

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth—  
when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.

When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him,  
like a master worker;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

“And now, my children, listen to me:  
happy are those who keep my ways.  
Hear instruction and be wise,  
and do not neglect it.  
Happy is the one who listens to me,  
watching daily at my gates,  
waiting beside my doors.  
For whoever finds me finds life  
and obtains favor from the Lord;  
but those who miss me injure themselves;  
all who hate me love death.”

Hear what God is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**REV. DR. ANABEL PROFFITT**

## **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

We come together to give you honor and praise.  
We ask that you would help us to draw close to you.

### **Creator, hear us**

Please come and speak your words of wisdom into our lives  
Help us to embrace one another, our similarities, our differences, our concerns and  
our joys.

### **Redeemer, hear us**

We long for your touch on our lives, that we might be your hands and feet to the  
world. Inspire our hearts, heal our wounds, bring your peace into our worries and  
your hope into our disappointments.

### **Sustainer, hear us**

Come Lord and weave your love into our fellowship together, that we may overflow  
with grace and allow your truth to light up our lives anew.

**Amen.**

## **Service of the Table**

**OFFERTORY SONG**

**“THE CARE THE EAGLE GIVES HER YOUNG”**

**NCH 468**

**The care the eagle gives her young, safe in her lofty nest,  
is like the tender love of God for us made manifest.**

**As when the time to venture comes, she stirs them out to flight,  
so we are pressed to boldly try, to strive for daring height.**

**And if we flutter helplessly, as fledgling eagles fall,  
beneath us lift God's mighty wings to bear us, one and all.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Holy One be with you

**And also with you**

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

**We open our hearts to you, O God**

Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love

**For the courage of the Holy that lives in us, we give thanks**

Throughout history, O God, we have struggled to remember who we are. When forces of evil work to shape our understanding of you, ourselves, and one another, we get lost. We hide parts of ourselves. We keep the things that make us vulnerable buried deep. We cling to security and safety. We turn from meaningful connection with one another. We take cover under the patterns of our culture.

But you have created us for so much more.

In Jesus we saw a life lived in all its potential.

Life that is abundant, life that is collective, life that is tender and full.

But we saw, also, in him, what can happen to a life when power and norms are exchanged for truth, collective justice, and integrity. And so we wonder.

If we live true to our authentic selves, will we be condemned?

In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power, do we stand a chance of survival?

How will it go for us, if we are willing to risk everything for love?

You have never promised us safety, but you have shown us what is possible.

The Spirit brings new life even to places of death.

Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead, kept proclaiming his truth.

There was nothing worth his silence, not even his life.

And so he turned to community for companionship in the struggle.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around table with his companions.

He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

"This is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."



In Jesus, God came out to the world, challenging systems and norms. And though great violence was done and unfathomable loss was felt, Love presses on still today, transforming life after life.

And so we pray, pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup. Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage to live boldly for one another, proclaiming the truths that set us free.

Blessed be this meal of hope. Amen.

Those who have requested an ecumenical prayer of blessing will now be placed in a breakout room with the preacher.

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

# **Going Forth as the Body of Christ**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God, we give you thanks for the invitation to your Table. No matter who we are, no matter our struggles or regrets, we are never turned away. Like all the gifts you give us, may we never be content to keeping them to ourselves. May this meal compel us to invite others - especially those who are turned away from the tables of their families, their churches, their communities - to our own tables, overflowing with love and nourishment abundant. Amen.**

## **CLOSING SONG**

## **“GOD BE WITH YOU”**

**NCH 81**

**God be with you till we meet again; by good counsel guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again; wings of shelter safely hide you,  
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.**

**Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING & POSTLUDE

### “A PLEASANT THOUGHT”

FLORENCE B. PRICE

Go and search diligently where God resides,  
And pay homage to all in whom the Spirit lives.

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**Cover Art:** Olusola David, Ayibiowu. *Wisdom*, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57583> [retrieved July 21, 2020]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artist\\_Olusola\\_David\\_Ayibiowu\\_Title\\_WISDOM.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Artist_Olusola_David_Ayibiowu_Title_WISDOM.jpg).

**Centering Song:** “Please Come” by Nichole Nordeman. Copyright 2000 Ariose Music, All rights administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing. Liturgical Movement by Kara Young, MAR ‘15.

**Call to Worship:** Sar Terri C Pilarski, *RevGalBlogPals* (May 2010), <https://revgalblogpals.org/2010/05/a>, accessed July 23, 2020/

**Poem:** Bipin Churchung Rabha, “God Created Us,” *Poem Hunter*, <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/god-created-us/>, accessed July 23, 2020.

**Prayer of Illumination:** Caldwell Presbyterian Church, “Prayers for Illumination (for Scripture Readers),” <http://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/Prayers%20for%20Illumination.pdf>

**Prayer of the Community:** Original prayer by: [https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/family/prayers\\_for\\_women.html](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/family/prayers_for_women.html), accessed July 23, 2020, edited by LTS Chapel Team.

**Communion Liturgy:** *Enfleshed*, “LGBTQ-related: Communion (4),” <https://enfleshed.com/pages/lgbtq-related>, accessed July 21, 2020.

**Postlude:** “A Pleasant Thought” by Florence B. Price. Copyright 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

**\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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#### LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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#### THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.  
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.  
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.