

A Service of Gratitude and Hope

The Presbytery of Baltimore
11 March 2021

Leading Worship Today:

Liturgists: James Parks (RE, Hunting Ridge)
Mihee Kim-Kort (TE, First Annapolis)

Celebrants: Billy Kluttz (TE, Govans)
Cat Goodrich (TE, Faith)

Preaching: David Norse Thomas (TE, Maryland)

Musicians: Dr. Samuel Springer, Minister of Music (Faith)
Daniel Rich, Bass-Baritone (Faith)

Prelude *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me* Calvin Taylor (b. 1948)

Gathering Words

O God, we gather in your presence,
In our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.

We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus
And you know from experience what human life is like.

We come with our faith and with our doubt;
We come with our hope and with our fear.

We come as we are, for you have invited us;
And you have promised never to turn us away.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Grace

Loving God, we gather this morning,
seeking your healing strength and love.
You know us, God: you understand who we are;
you know what troubles us and what puzzles us;
what makes us smile and what make us sad.
You listen to our questions and to our prayers.
We bring our brokenness and ask for your healing.
We bring the hurt we have caused others –
by intention and by neglect – and we ask your forgiveness.

[a short silence]

Listen, for the God who created us says:
Do not be afraid.
I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine. You are precious to me.
I love you, I honor you, I am with you.

[a short silence]

Write these words in our hearts, loving God,
and let them take root in our living.

**God our Creator, we are held in your everlasting arms.
Jesus our Savior, we are healed by your wounded hands.
Holy Spirit, be present as we reach out to one another in love.**

Remembering a Year of Pandemic Loss

Prayer for Others

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain or ill health, and those who have COVID, along with their families and friends and those who care for them.

We lift them to you, O God.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence all who during this pandemic keep our grocery stores and pharmacies open, all who keep our community safe, all who continue to collect trash, drive busses, clean workplaces, serve the needy, the hungry, the homeless – that they may be safe.

We lift them to you, O God.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence all who mourn the death of a partner, parent, child, friend, coworker during this pandemic.

We lift them to you, O God.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we hold in your healing presence, those whose needs are not known to us, and whose names we do not know, but who are known to you... ..and we name in our hearts those who are close to us.

We lift them to you, O God.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

May your holy wisdom guide nurses, doctors, counselors and all others whose skill and care safeguards the lives of others, whether in hospitals, clinics, hospices, at school or at home, and all who serve in rescue and emergency services.

We lift them to you, O God.

May they know the deep peace of Christ.

Loving God, we give you thanks for health restored and for prayers answered.

[a brief silence]

[The liturgist invites everyone to place their hands, palms open, in front of them, as a sign of receiving.]

Spirit of the living God, present with you now,
enter you, body, mind and spirit,
and heal you of all that harms us.

[a brief silence]

[The liturgist invites everyone to place their hand, palms open, facing the camera, as a sign of blessing one another.]

Spirit of the living God, present with us now,
enter us, body, mind and spirit,
and heal us of all that harms us.

[a brief silence]

God of compassion and love,
we offer you all our suffering and pain.
Give us strength to bear our weakness,
healing when there is no cure,
peace in the midst of turmoil,
and love to fill the spaces in our lives.
Amen.

Hymn

God Be the Love to Search Me and Keep Me
Soloist, Daniel Rich, Bass-Baritone

Green Tyler

Scripture Reading: Mark 8: 31-38

Meditation

Not What We Expected

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

May our God be with you.

And also with you.

Left up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Necrology

(the prayer continues...)

Breaking of the Bread

When the bread is broken, please break the bread you have at home.

*When the cup is poured, please pour it at home
or touch the cup if you've already filled it.*

*We give thanks that the Spirit is present wherever we are,
knitting us together as the body of Christ in the world.*

Communion

Prayer After Communion (together)

**Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey.
As we travel through this wilderness of Lent and pandemic,
our prayer is simple:
help us to share your grace with others,
and draw ever closer to you;
through Jesus Christ, our teacher, friend, guide and savior.
Amen.**

Blessing

Postlude

Siyahambe

John A. Behnke (b. 1953)