

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
NATIONAL OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUNE 28, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR* - attr. to J. S. Bach

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Together we defy the darkness by being the Light. We make violence tremble by being peacemakers. When chaos and trauma cause distress, we counter by reaching for love and remembering joy. This day, when people are going hungry, give us bread to share. This day, when people are angry and hurtful, give us forgiveness to offer. When there is so much temptation to be selfish and careless, this day give us the strength to be kind and intentional. Remind us that we are all born holy and deserve love and tenderness. In the many names of Love, may it be so. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

SENTENCES OF ADORATION

OPENING HYMN: *SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: How long, O Lord?

Unison: How long must your lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people hide, afraid to come out to wholeness?

Pastor: How long, O Lord?

Unison: How long must our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous siblings bear the scars our legacy of white supremacy and racism have left on this nation, on this world?

Pastor: How long, O Lord?

Unison: Before the lament we carry in our souls is heard and comforted?

Pastor: Divine Beloved, we have trusted in your steadfast love.

Unison: Our hearts have rejoiced at the promise of your mercy and compassion.

Pastor: This Open and Affirming Sunday, let us sing to the Lord, Our God.

Unison: Let us raise the songs of our ancestors, committing to walk in justice and mercy, until all God's people are free

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

CALL TO AND CONFESSION OF SIN:

Unison: Holy God, Jesus taught what it means to welcome and showed a beautiful and beloved community where there is room for all. For

times when we have created our own closed communities, forgive us. For times we have excluded others because of who they are, or what they believe, Holy God, Jesus taught what it means to welcome and showed a beautiful and beloved community where there is room for all. For times when we have created our own closed communities, forgive us. For times we have excluded others because of who they are, or what they believe, forgive us. For times when we think that our way is a better way than other ways, forgive us. For the times, we don't want to find things in common with, or love, others who are different from us, forgive us. For the times we have become so comfortable in our lives, that we don't want to be uncomfortable by welcoming people who are beyond our doors, forgive us. May we extend the welcome we receive through your Spirit, and may we remember that in the holy act of welcoming others, we welcome you. Amen.

ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON:

-Cindy Talaber, Lay Reader

Old Testament: Genesis 22:1 – 14

New Testament: Matthew 10:40 – 42

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: *So Easy, Yet So Demanding*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *ALL BELONG HERE*

- The Many

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD'S WILL AND WORK

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Pastor: Each of us is created with worth, imbued with dignity.

Unison: We are the representation of God's love in the world.

Pastor: We are diverse in our experiences, vast in our manifestation of how love looks

Unison: Our families are all different, but each represents and honors the many ways that your people live and love.

Pastor: Our lives are enriched when LGBTQIA+ people are welcomed and affirmed in our churches and communities.

Unison: Our lives are enriched when our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous neighbors are affirmed.

Pastor: Your words, shared in Scripture, call us to be a people of justice.

Unison: We all suffer when any LGBT person is oppressed, excluded, or shamed.

Pastor: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us.

Unison: Until we are all free, none of us are free.

Pastor: May we work to build a world where all people are affirmed with love.
Unison: **Our sexual and gender diversity enriches us, creates joy in our lives. Joy given by and through you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Unison: **We are descendants of your righteous ones,
Those who obeyed, you Beloved children,
Greeting your covenant with joyous praise
Through fearful nights and problem laden days.
You were our refuge through all times of change,
When the world seemed harsh and strange.
We followed your lead even when the path was obscured,
the way to grace hidden behind our own fear.
God, we witness the violence of the world,
Too often callously dispensed against the most vulnerable,
Too often targeting our Black, Latinx, and Indigenous siblings.
You deliver us from a world filled with inequities.**

**Forgive us, God, for breaking our covenants.
Forgive us, God, for those moments when we stayed silent and
ignored your command to speak.
Forgive us, God, for those times when we witnessed harm and did
not intervene.
Forgive us, O God, for those moments when we forgot to act always
in love for one another.**

**We have been blessed with gifts so manifold!
Heaven and earth, and wonders yet untold.
Proclaim your love divine, O God of Light.
May we, your people, reaffirm our covenant in your name.
Pledging to walk as allies, as disciples, as friends committed to the
Way of your child, Jesus.**

Pause for private intercessions

Gracious God, as you have promised, may it come to pass.
We pray in Christ's name and offer the prayer He offered;
Unison: **Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

NEWS FROM THE PEWS – The Maginn Family

SPECIAL MUSIC: *HERE I AM TO WORSHIP* - Hillsong - Darin Jellison

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor: It is a gift to be able to give something away.

Unison: We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

Pastor: Spirit of Love, look upon us now.

Unison: Bless these gifts; those we can see and those we cannot.

Pastor: May our hopes come true for the better world we dream of

Unison: As we work together in love. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

CLOSING HYMN: *GOD BE WITH YOU*

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Continue to serve with faith and love,
Depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,
Through generosity of time and resources,
Meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and
unseen, heard and unheard
As the God of healing has healed us,
Let us go now and share that compassion with the world,
Let us go and greet our beloved transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay
siblings,
Our Black, Latinx, Indigenous, siblings
Sharing the good news that they are seen, they are heard, they are
Beloved.
Go now in hope. Amen.

POSTLUDE: *PRAISE BE TO THEE, LORD JESUS CHRIST* - S.Scheidt

*Special thanks to Cindy Talaber for reading the scriptures, to the Maginn Family
for sharing their greeting with us,
to Darin Jellison for special music, and to Autumn Kandt for
editing the service. Blessings to all!*