

WORSHIP GUIDE for SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

SETTING YOUR SPACE

This is our last Sunday in the sixth dwelling place. There's a lot here to explore, Teresa of Avila tells us. We've taken a close look at the trials and struggles that inform our journey. We've spent some time considering what it means to be human – like Jesus was. And here, she invites us into a consideration of what it means to be divine. Warning: there are no easy answers here. Here, Teresa tells us what all the great mystics of all the world's religious traditions tell us – that the closer we come to the center (the seventh room, where God dwells), the more we know we don't know. What we're actually approaching is the heart of a deep mystery. We will never fully know.

So... what could you add to your worship space today that would help you reflect on that? What do you have around your house, or yard, that draws forth your sense of awe? What inspires your wonder? A work of art? A delicate flower? A book of melodic poetry, or of complicated equations, or of photographs of exquisite beauty? Bring it to your space for this service, and let it remind you of the gift it is to be present, even when we can't fully understand.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting One Another

Gathering Song: *Be the Center* - Jesse and Worship Team

Jesus, be the center. Be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the center. Be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.

Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision. Be my path, be my guide, Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart. Be the wind in these sails.

Be the reason that I live, Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be the center. Be my source, be my light, Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.

Gathering Prayer &

Communal Prayer *from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Story – Sean P. Williams

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

Scripture: Luke 24:13-32, excerpts

Two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus - which was about seven miles from Jerusalem - discussing all that had happened as they went. While they were discussing these things Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, "What are you two discussing as you go your way?"

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened the last two days?"

Jesus said to them, "What things?"

They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and in deed, in the eyes of God and all the people - how our chief priests and leaders condemned him to death and delivered him up to be crucified. We were hoping he was the one who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today - the third day since these things happened - some women in our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the

tomb before dawn and didn't find the body; they returned and informed us they had seen a vision of angels, who told them Jesus was alive."

... Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of Scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, "Stay with us. It is nearly evening - the day is practically over."

So the Savior went in and stayed with them. After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"

Sermon – “What Remains Unexplainable”

Time for Journaling/Reflection

Response Song: *We Limit Not the Truth of God* - Jesse and Worship Team

We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
to notions of our day and place, crude, partial, and confined;
No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

Who dares to bind to one's own sense the oracles of heaven,
for all the nations, tongues, and climes and all the ages given?
That universe, how much unknown! That ocean unexplored!
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame and dove:
enlarge, expand all living souls to comprehend your love;
And help us all to seek your will with wiser powers conferred:
O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

“What I Learned at Home” Testimony – Susan Chambers

Special Music - Robin Pederson

Be Thou My Vision

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *If We Are the Body* - Jesse and Worship Team

Sometimes I, I just want to close my eyes
and act like everyone's alright, when I know they're not.
This world needs God, but it's easier to stand and watch.
I could say a prayer and just move on, like nothing's wrong.

But if we are the body, why aren't our arms reaching?
Why aren't our hands healing? Why aren't our words teaching?
(We are the body of Christ.)

And if we are the body, why aren't our feet going?
Why is our love not showing them there is a way?

I can hear the least of these crying out so desperately.
And I know we are the hands and feet of you, oh God.
So if you say, "Move," it's time for me to follow through
and do what I was made to do, and show them who you are.

You love ev'ry lost cause, you reach for the outcast,
for the leper and the lame; they're the reason that you came.
Lord, I was that lost cause, and I was the outcast,
but you came for people just like me, a willing servant at your feet.

'Cause if we are the body, why aren't our arms reaching?
Why aren't our hands healing? Why aren't our words teaching?
(We are the body of Christ.)

And if we are the body, why aren't our feet going?
Why is our love not showing them there is a way?

Benediction

Postlude

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To join in congregational fellowship:

by COMPUTER

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84167771310?pwd=ZXFpUFpoV2ZiYUdlQ3IvRXdiRkYyQT09>

by PHONE - 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 841 6777 1310 Password: 297765

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kyWYCGcHN>

To make a financial gift to FBC: www.fbcmac.org/give

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To register your attendance at this service:

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