

WORSHIP GUIDE for SEPTEMBER 13

SETTING YOUR SPACE

St. Benedict once called community “a school for souls,” and this Sunday, as we recognize that our kids, teachers, and other staff are headed back to school and bless them for that, we can all think about our own identity as a church, too: how we shape and are shaped by each other, how our souls learn and grow together in this school. We’re beginning a new series where we’ll investigate power – this Sunday, in a story from Hebrew scriptures where the layers of power are intricate and fascinating – and we’ll consider, all fall, how we might use our own power for good. We’ll also just remember the gift it is to be able to gather virtually, and hold in our prayers all who are struggling in these difficult days. For your worship space, you might bring something that reminds you of your own power, something that reminds you of a time you said “no,” or something that reminds you of your connection to other people, other beings, or the land.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Reverie by Faulks – Muriel Dresser, organ

Welcome – Erika Marksbury

Greeting from Mylinda Baits

Gathering Song: *I Will Trust in the Lord* - NC #416 –

Jesse Cromer & Worship Team

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,

I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the Lord,

I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,

I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die.

I'm gonna treat everybody right, I'm gonna treat everybody right,

I'm gonna treat everybody right, till I die.

Gathering Prayer

& Communal Prayer from Sarah Dylan Breuer

Loving Creator, we honor you, and we honor all that you have made. Renew the whole world in the image of your love. Give us what we need for today, and a hunger to see the whole world fed. Strengthen us for what lies ahead; heal us from the hurts of the past; give us courage to follow your call in this moment. For your love is the only power, the only home, the only honor we need, in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Children's Story & Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices – Sean P. Williams

Be You by Peter H. Reynolds

Scripture: Esther 1:1-12a

The following events took place during the time of Ahasuerus - the same Ahasuerus who ruled 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia - when he set up the imperial throne in the capital city of Susa. During the third year of his reign, he gave a feast for all of the government officials and members of the royal court as well as the governors of Persia and Media and all the nobles and administrators of the provinces. So Ahasuerus put all the wealth of the empire on display for many days - 180 in all - with a great show of pomp and grandeur.

At the end of those six months, Ahasuerus gave a banquet for everyone in the capital city of Susa, both the mighty and the lowly. The banquet lasted for seven days and was held in the courtyard of the royal gardens. The regal court was adorned with white and purple tapestries which hung by cords of fine linen and and purple thread attached to silver rings on large marble pillars. Couches of gold and silver were placed on a mosaic floor of malachite, marble, mother of pearl, and turquoise. Wine was served in golden goblets, each one unique in design. The wine flowed freely, as was the style at an imperial banquet. The ruler gave strict orders, however, that no one was required to drink, and that the waiters respect the preferences of the guests. Queen Vashti also gave a banquet for the women in the court of Ahasuerus.

On the seventh day of the revels, Ahasuerus was drunk, after a great deal of wine. He ordered the seven eunuchs who attended to his every need, to bring Queen Vashti into his presence, crowned with the royal diadem, to put on “a show of her beauty” for those

present and for the government officials - she was very beautiful. But Queen Vashti rebuffed the eunuchs and refused to obey the order.

Sermon, “The Power of Reading the Room”

Response Song: *Sim Shalom*

*Sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah; sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah,
Sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah; sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah.*

*We each hold a gift, man and woman, boy and girl;
there’s as many pieces of this gift as people in the world.
And if we put them all together, maybe we can find a way
to build a peaceful world one day.*

*Sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah; sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah,
Sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah; sim shalom, sim shalom, tova uvrachah.*

The Reach of Our Gifts

Safe Families for Children

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *I Will Lift the Cloud of Night* NC #482

*I will lift the cloud of night before you, what is wrong I’ll make it right before you,
all your battles I will fight before you, and the high place I’ll bring down.*

*When you walk and lose the way I’ll lead you; on the produce of the land I’ll feed you;
and a home within my heart I’ll deed you; and the high place I’ll bring down.*

*With an everlasting love I’ll love you, though with trials I will test and prove you,
still there’s nothing that can hurt or move you, and the high place I’ll bring down.*

*When you walk and lose the way I’ll lead you; on the produce of the land I’ll feed you;
and a home within my heart I’ll deed you; and the high place I’ll bring down.*

*I will lift the cloud of night before you, I will make the crooked straight before you,
I will spread my wings protecting o’er you, and the high place I’ll bring down.*

*When you walk and lose the way I'll lead you; on the produce of the land I'll feed you;
and a home within my heart I'll deed you; and the high place I'll bring down.*

Benediction

Postlude – Worship Chorus by Lorenzo – Muriel Dresser, organ

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To join in congregational fellowship by COMPUTER:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84167771310?pwd=ZXFpUFpoV2ZiYUdlQ3IvRXdiRkYyQT09>

To join by PHONE: 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 841 6777 1310, Password: 297765

Find your local number: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84167771310?pwd=ZXFpUFpoV2ZiYUdlQ3IvRXdiRkYyQT09>

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To register your worship attendance:

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