

WORSHIP GUIDE for SEPTEMBER 27

SETTING YOUR SPACE

This week we continue our look at examples from Hebrew Scriptures of how power expressed itself – we’re in Amos, the short book detailing the speech of the prophet with some of the harshest rebukes for those who would make a mockery of justice. He’s been quoted by some more recent prophets, too – MLK’s call to “let justice roll down” was originally Amos’s. For setting your space this week, I’d invite you to bring anything that reminds you of a challenge, or of bold speech – a favorite quote that shakes you out of your comfort, a book by an author calling you to a more simple and just life, maybe a lace collar or other image that evokes “dissent.” We look forward to sharing this time with you, where we remember together God’s deep love for us, and the ways God calls us to love all the world deeply, too.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Geoff Clayton

Welcome – Erika Marksbury

**Gathering Song: *How Great Thou Art (Blue Book)* –
Jesse Cromer & Worship Team**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,

when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art."

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer *from the Aramaic* – Gary Langenwalter

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful: Create your reign of unity now. Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews. Truly - power to these statements - may they be the ground from which all my actions grow. Amen.

Children's Story – Sean P. Williams

One by Kathryn Otoshi

Scripture: Amos 4:1-5, 5:11-15

Listen to this word, you rich cows of Bashan, living in the mountain of Samaria: You defraud the poor, steal from the needy, and call out, "Bring me another drink!" The Sovereign YHWH swears this in holiness: the days are coming when you will be dragged out in baskets, every last one of you in fish baskets. You will be taken out of the

city through the nearest breach in the wall, to be flung onto the dung heap. (It is YHWH who says this.) Come to Bethel and sin! Come to Gilgal, and sin even more! Offer your sacrifices the next morning and your tithes on the third day. Burn your thank offering of leavened bread and announce your freewill offering in a loud voice - those are the things that make you happy, children of Israel! (It is YHWH who speaks.) ... Rest assured, since you trampled on the poor, extorting inhumane taxes on their grain, those houses you built of hewn stone - you will never live in them; and those precious vineyards you planted - you will never drink their wine. For I have noted your many atrocities, and your countless sins, you persecutors of the righteous, you bribe-takers, you who deny justice to the needy at the city gate! That is why the prosperous moan in times like this, for such times bring disaster. Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and so that YHWH God Omnipotent may truly be with you as you have been claiming. Hate what is evil, and love what is good; maintain justice at the city gate, and it may be that YHWH God Omnipotent will take pity on the remnant of Joseph.

Sermon – “The Power of Telling It Like It Is”

Response Song: *Immigrants (Airtable/Blue Book)* - Jesse & Music Team

All of us are immigrants in this state of grace.
None of us inherit it, we all must find a place.
Lifted up by mercy, and held in love’s embrace,
all of us are immigrants in this state of grace

All of us are wanderers, strangers on this earth.
Race and class and family are accidents of birth
that tell a bit about us but don’t tell what we’re worth,
all of us are wanderers, strangers on this earth.

All of us are instruments, voices in this song.
We do our best to play our parts, at times we get them wrong.
Working out the harmonies, we strive to get along.
All of us are instruments, voices in this song.

All of us are shooting stars, across an endless night.
Each one burns a different course, a brilliant burst of light.
We glow for just a little while, then trail off out of sight.

All of us are shooting stars, across an endless night.

We glow for just a little while, then trail off out of sight.

All of us are shooting stars across an endless night.

All of us are shooting stars, across an endless night.

The Reach of Our Gifts: World Mission Offering

Special Music: I Don't Know How to Love Him from Jesus Christ Superstar

-Marilyn Dresser, vocals and Jesse Cromer, piano

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *You are Salt for the Earth, O People NC #181*

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!

Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God!

Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

Benediction

Postlude – Jesse Cromer

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Join in Congregational Fellowship following the service:

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/j/84167771310?pwd=ZXFpUFpoV2ZiYUdlQ3IvRXdiRkYyQT09>

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