

WORSHIP GUIDE for JUNE 20, 2021

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Not every transition, every emergence, is a hoped-for one.

Sometimes we're forced to change, or we change, we move, because we don't see another option. This week's story is difficult, no doubt like some of the changes we've all had to make as our own stories have unfolded. But still there is some wonder in it, and some reason for hope. We'll look at all that together. And we'll have a special hymn to honor fathers on this day that celebrates them. You might want to set your space with a picture of your dad, or a memory of him or someone who played that role in your life. Or maybe there's some token that reminds you of a difficult transition you've survived, or a difficulty you're facing now; you could add that to your space as a way of honoring that/this time. A small glass of water would also be a good element for your altar this Sunday – in our story, it's near a well that the hope and help come.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Muriel Dresser, Organist

Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *O Holy Dove of God Descending* (NC Hymnal #285)

– Jesse Cromer, Director of Music Ministries, Heidi Toth, Dave King, Lara O'Brady, Janet Langenwalter, Muriel Dresser

O holy Dove of God descending,
you are the love that knows no ending,
All of our shattered dreams you're mending: Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Wind of God now blowing,

you are the seed that God is sowing,
You are the life that starts us growing: Spirit, now live in me.

Oh holy Rain of God now falling,
you make the Word of God enthralling,
You are the inner voice now calling: Spirit, now live in me.

O holy Flame of God now burning,
you are the power of Christ returning,
You are the answer to our yearning: Spirit, now live in me.

**Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer from Central Congregational
United Church of Christ, Atlanta, Georgia**

-Don Watson

Our Mother and Father, our Beloved Parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being, the hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children. May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven. Grant that all might have their daily needs met – that all might find gainful employment without discrimination; that all might have access to medical care without fear; that all might have their rights and lives protected, and find a loving community to belong to and call their own. Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed each other. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged others' unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear – as we forgive those who might have failed us. Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Story – Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister
Juneteenth for Mazie, by Floyd Cooper

Scripture: Genesis 16:1-14

Now Sarai and Abram were childless. However, Sarai had an Egyptian attendant named Hagar. Sarai said to Abram, "Since God has made me childless, go to Hagar. Perhaps I will get children through her." Abram agreed to Sarai's suggestion, and so Sarai took Hagar and gave her to Abram as a concubine. Sarai and Abram had been living in the land of Canaan for ten years by this time. Abram had relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant.

Once Hagar became pregnant, she looked with disdain on Sarai. So Sarai said to Abram, "This wrong being done to me is your fault! It was I who put Hagar into your arms, but now that she has conceived, you allow me to count for nothing in her eyes! Let God judge between you and me."

Abram told Sarai, "She is your attendant. Treat her as you will." Sarai then treated Hagar so badly that she ran away.

The angel of God found Hagar in the desert near a spring, the spring on the road to Shur. The angel asked Hagar, "Hagar, attendant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I am running away from Sarai," she replied.

The angel said to her, "Go back to Sarai, and submit to her. I will make your descendants too numerous to count." Then the angel continued, "You are now pregnant, and you will bear a child; you will name it Ishmael - 'God hears' - for God has heard you in your sorrow. He will be like a wild donkey, with his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, living in strife even with his own siblings."

Recognizing God as the one who spoke to her, Hagar said, "You are the God of Seeing!" adding, "Have I actually gone on seeing - and living - after God has seen me?" That is why the well is called Beerlahai-roi, or "Well of the Living One who Sees Me." It exists to this day, between Kadesh and Bered.

Sermon: “From Oppression: To Be Heard, To Be Seen”

- Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* (NC Hymnal #18)

- Jesse Cromer, Heidi Toth, Dave King, Lara O’Brady, Janet Langenwalter, and Muriel Dresser

Guide me, O my great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, ever be my strength and shield,
ever by my strength and shield.

When I reach the River Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on heaven’s side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Special Music: *God of Our Fathers*

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *We Shall Overcome* (NC Hymnal #570)

- Jesse Cromer, Heidi Toth, Dave King, Lara O’Brady, Janet Langenwalter, and Muriel Dresser

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day:
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall overcome some day.

We’ll go hand in hand, we’ll go hand in hand,
we’ll go hand in hand some day;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we'll go hand in hand some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
we are not afraid today;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we are not afraid today.

Our God will see us through, our God will see us through,
our God will see us through some day;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
our God will see us through some day.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
the truth will make us free some day;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
the truth will make us free some day.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
we shall live in peace some day;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall live in peace some day.

Benediction

One: Friends, ... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude: To God Be the Glory by Hughes – Muriel Dresser

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To join in Congregational Fellowship by COMPUTER:

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

Join by PHONE: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 841 6777 1310 Password: 297765

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To register your Worship Attendance:

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