

WORSHIP GUIDE for JANUARY 23, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Friends, it's always a gift to welcome other voices to FBC, and this Sunday we have a real treat: Malachi Nelson will be our preacher. Many of you are connected to Malachi through singing or being in class or volunteering together - if you are, you know how thoughtful and delightful he is. He's been considering seminary, and asked if he could prepare and present a sermon for our congregation. Thank you for being part of his discernment process in this way.

And thanks for all of the ways you make this community happen, all of the ways you show up to surround one another with compassion, care, wisdom, and presence. I hope you know how much it all matters. I look forward to singing, praying, listening, and learning with you this Sunday.

—

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude - Muriel Dresser, Organist

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (NC #1)

**- Marilyn Dresser, Miles Dresser, Janet Langenwalter,
Gary Langenwalter, Muriel Dresser**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Your life is life-giving to both great and small;

in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish but naught dim your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we not render as your angels do;
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer from Jim Burko

- Rev. Mike Saylor

Dear One, closer to us than our own hearts, farther from us than the most distant star, you are beyond naming. May your powerful presence become obvious - not only in the undeniable glory of the sky, but also in the seemingly base and common processes of the earth. Give us what we need, day by day, to keep body and soul together, because clever as you have made us, we still owe our existence to you. We recognize that to be reconciled with you, we must live peaceably and justly with other human beings, putting hate and bitterness behind us. We are torn between our faith in your goodness and our awareness of the evil in your creation, so deliver us from the temptation to despair. Yours alone is the universe and all its majesty and beauty. So it is. Amen.

Children's Time - Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister

Scripture: Judges 6:1-12

Once more, Israel did evil in the sight of God, and for seven years God gave the people into the hands of the Midians. They were so oppressive that the Israelites found refuge in the mountains, in caves and dens. Whenever the Israelites sowed crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and other eastern tribes would arrive to attack them, pitching tents opposite

them and destroying their crops as far as the outskirts of Gaza. They would leave nothing living, not sheep, oxen, or donkeys. They would come up with their livestock and their tents, swarming like locusts; they and their camels were beyond counting, invading the land and ravaging it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to God for help.

When the Israelites cried out to God because of Midian, God sent them a prophet, who told them, “These are the words of the God of Israel: ‘I led you from the land of Egypt, the land of slavery. I rescued you from the Egyptians and all your other oppressors, who I drove out before you to provide you with your land.’ I said to you, ‘I am Yahweh, your God. Do not worship the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are settling. But you failed to listen to me.’”

An angel from God arrived and sat under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite. As Gideon ben-Joash thrashed wheat in the winepress (he did this to keep out of the sight of the Midianites), the angel appeared to him and said, “You are brave, and God is with you.”

Sermon: “Who is the Hero?” – Malachi Nelson

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

**– Marilyn Dresser, Miles Dresser, Janet Langenwalter,
Gary Langenwalter, 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.

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury

One: Gracious One, in your mercy...

All: ...hear our prayer.

Reach of Our Gifts: AMOS Virtual Mission Trip – Jennifer Scott

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* (NC #4)

– Marilyn Dresser, Miles Dresser, Janet Langenwalter,
Gary Langenwalter, Muriel Dresser

Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Give of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury

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

All: And also with you.

Postlude – Muriel Dresser

To make a financial gift to FBC: leave your gift in the offering plate, give online at www.fbcmac.org/give or mail a check to FBC, 125 SE Cows, McMinnville, OR 97128.

To register your worship attendance: fill out a pew card or this form – https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepvtuZRSXH8be1YoTM7BJriMSTDS1LDe_qhWY7KjnDhickrA/viewform