

WORSHIP GUIDE for FEBRUARY 27, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Friends, these days are hard. Struggles both close to home and on the world stage have left so many of us weary and worn. Our hope is that church can be some respite from that – some chance to speak our sorrows and our hopes, to remind ourselves that none of us are alone, to call on the God who is with us all, in all things, and to pray together for God’s healing and God’s peace for all people.

For those reasons, I hope you can join in worship this Sunday, either in person or virtually. It’s the last of our “Big Questions” series, and we’ve got *really* big questions to tackle. And, if you submitted a question that we haven’t taken up yet, know that I’m saving those and we will get to them – some will become their own series later on, others will appear elsewhere.

And if you can’t join, for whatever reason, I hope you’ll let the church know if there’s any way we can support you during these difficult days. It is why we’re here.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Robin Pederson

Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Beauty for Brokenness* – Robin Pederson

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering, this is our prayer
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset – Your kingdom increase!

God of the poor, friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain

God of the poor, friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed
Make us content with the things that we need

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
Until your justice burns brightly again
Until the nations learn of your ways
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise

God of the poor, friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer from Parker Palmer

- Danny Browne

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come. We pray that your good will be done. Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need; give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one, to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days — come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.

Children's Time - Georgine Benner

Scripture: Isaiah 1:10-18a

Hear the word of Yahweh, you rulers of "Sodom"! Listen to the command of Yahweh, you people of "Gomorrah": "These interminable sacrifices of yours: what are they to me?" says Yahweh. "I'm fed up with burnt offerings of rams and the fat of calves! The blood of bulls, lambs, and goats nauseate me. When you came to present yourselves before me, who asked you to trample over my courts? Don't bring any more of your useless offerings to me – their incense fills me with loathing. New Moons, Sabbaths, assemblies – I cannot endure another festival of injustice! Your new moons and your pilgrimages I despise with all my soul. They are wearisome to me; I am tired of bearing them. When you open up your hands in prayer, I turned my eyes away from you. You may heap prayer upon prayer, but I won't hear them – your hands are covered with blood! Wash! Clean yourselves! Get your injustice out of my sight! Cease to do evil and learn to do good! Search for justice and help the oppressed! Protect those who are orphaned and plead the case of those who are widowed! Come now: Let's look at the choices before you."

Sermon: “Questions about Justice and Responsibility”
- Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: *Do Justice* - Robin Pederson

Racing around, chasing idols, unfulfilled, empty vessels.
World on the edge, out of control. Will we survive? God only knows.

Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.
Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.

People broken, falling pieces, dignity lost, loving ceases.
Hopeless eyes, lonely faces, yearning hearts, hurting places.

Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.
Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.

Deadly hunger, desperate crying, wounded living, children dying.
Nails in the flesh, piercing fear. Why can't we see Christ hanging here?

Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.
Do justice, Love mercy, Walk humbly with our God, with our God.

Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Erika Marksbury

One: Gracious One, in your mercy...

All: ... hear our prayer.

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *Make Me a Servant* - Robin Pederson

Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today
Make me a servant, humble and meek

Lord let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today
Of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today

Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury

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

All: And also with you.

Postlude – Robin Pederson

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