

WORSHIP GUIDE for MAY 8, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Friends, I'm hopeful you'll be able to join in our time together this Sunday. We'll have some gorgeous special music and a wonderful children's book themed both in gratitude for those who have mothered us and in celebration of the mothering of God. And we're looking at another Easter story - one that *really* asks us to take the resurrection literally - and we'll consider why that might be, that is, what's gained, and what's lost, when we focus intently on bodies. Once more, this ancient text has something to say to our urgent reality. Who knew? :)

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude - Geoff Clayton, Pianist

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *Gather Us In (Blue Book)*

- Marilyn Dresser, Dave Ferry, Geoff Clayton

Here in this place new light is shining,
Now is the darkness vanished away,
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face,

We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven light-years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Gathering Prayer & Communal Prayer from Matthew 6

- Mike Burr

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Children's Time: Mother God - Sean P. Williams

Scripture: Luke 24:36-49

While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really

me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read scripture this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

Sermon - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us (NC Hymnal #583)

- Marilyn Dresser, Dave Ferry, Geoff Clayton

Like a mother who has borne us,
held us close in her delight,
Fed us freely from her body,
God has called us into life.

Like a father who has taught us,
grasped our hand and been our guide,
Lifted us and healed our sorrows,
God has walked with us in life.

When we offer food and comfort,
grasped our neighbor's hand in love,
Tread the path of peace and justice,
God still walks with us in life.

Pastoral Prayer - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Special Music: A Mother Like You - Marilyn Dresser

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: Be Now My Vision (NC Hymnal #451)

- Marilyn Dresser, Dave Ferry, Geoff Clayton

Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart—
You my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
ever within me, my soul is assured;
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
now and forever your child I will be.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
you, my inheritance, now and always;
You and you only are first in my heart,
great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Benediction - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Postlude - Geoff Clayton

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