



Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

-Luke 4:21 (NRSV)



Sound the trumpet!

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“HE’S ABLE”

DETRICK HADDON

God is able to do
Just what God said God would do
God’s gonna fulfill every promise to you
Don’t give up on God
‘Cause God won’t give up on you
He’s able
Ohhhhh
She’s able
Ohhhh
They’re able
Don’t give up on God
‘Cause God won’t give up on you
God’s able.

GREETING

PRESIDER

CALL TO WORSHIP

How shall we worship our God?

We have heard what the Lord requires of us.

Leave empty talk and pride behind.

We must walk the walk.

Prepare to step out in faith, even into troubled waters.

Only God knows where we might need to go.

Don't be afraid.

Jesus will guide our steps along the way, Teaching us to walk humbly,

To love boldly,

To serve God with body, soul, mind, and strength.

Let us pray for the humility and courage

To follow where the Spirit leads.

OPENING HYMN**“PASS ME NOT, O GENTLE SAVIOR”****AAHH 435**

Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
 hear my humble cry;
 while on others thou art calling,
 do not pass me by.

Trusting only in thy merit,
 would I seek thy face;
 heal my wounded, broken spirit,
 save me by thy grace.
 (Refrain)

Refrain:

***Savior, Savior, hear my humble
 cry; while on others thou art
 calling, do not pass me by.***

CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God, we run from Truth and from the people we know who have not told it in the past. We handle mercy with a credit card and not with our hands. We become cynical, believing Justice is always trumped by self-interest. We despair when Peace is trampled by people of faith. Up from the ground of Africa, down from the bright sky, come, O God, now, and help us to believe in your Kiss—the Kiss of God that will restore and revive all of your people. Amen.

All: ***God’s unending love cleanses and renews us. We are forgiven. Amen.***

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other by waving or by typing in the chat function in Zoom.

Let us find inspiration from the words of Maya Angelou: “On this platform of peace, we can create a language to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other. We Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers, look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation. Peace, My [Sibling], Peace, My Soul.”

And also with you.

Service of the Word

POEM**RENEWAL OF STRENGTH****FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER**

This poem captures this moment in Jesus’ life when he is stepping out publicly as God’s son and watches his own earthly house crumble through the rejection of his neighbors.

*The prison-house in which I live
Is falling to decay,
But God renews my spirit's strength
Within these walls of clay.
For me a dimness slowly creeps
Around earth's fairest light,
But heaven grows clearer to my view,
And fairer to my sight.
It may be earth's sweet harmonies
Are duller to my ear,
But music from my Father's house
Begins to float more near.
Then let the pillars of my home
Crumble and fall away;
Lo, God's dear love within my soul
Renews it day by day.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of fire and light who dwells in thick darkness, the light and the dark are alike to thee, open the eyes of our hearts that we might see. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 4:21-30

NRSV

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 4, verses 21 through 30.

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

GAIL STALLINGS-MINOR (2-FEB)

KENNETH WEEKS (5-FEB)

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Love, you are strong as a dark blue mountain
Love, you are as fluid as a wide silver river

Love, you are as splendid as a clear night sky
Love, you are as mysterious as a dark forest.

Love, you are as wise as enduring friendship.
***Love, you are true power, not mere distraction,
truth, not deceit,
purpose, not impulse,
poetry, not prose,
sing not sang,
now more than tomorrow,
but tomorrow more than yesterday***

Love, condense yourself into this moment,
permeate the silence that joins us in community,

so that in the fire of the words to come,
the promises of this hour
might be sealed in peace.

Amen

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

“THE BLOOD WILL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER”

INSTRUMENTAL

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings, this is the mighty feast, the joyful feast, the holy feast of and for the people of God. Our Savior invites all who trust him to come.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy. For you have called forth the creation and raising us from dust by your reach. We bless you for the beauty and bounty by which each of us was wonderfully made in your image. Because we are thankful we sing! We sing your highest praises in one voice with the company of our ancestors who paved the way:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest!

Christ was born fully human and fully divine. He shares in our joys and sorrows. He shared in the joy of our resilience despite the deathly terror of the African enslavement, and shared in the sorrow that his gospel didn't compel transformation and quick abolition. He shared in the joy of the Emancipation Proclamation but equally shared in the sorrow of a people who have worked so hard to override, overturn, and recreate that which it was designed to eradicate. Yet and still he offered his life in obedience and trust in God.

We bless you, O God, for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit leads us into truth, fights for justice and equality, continues to gather us as believers even in the face of adversity, and moves us to be empowered by your love. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit that allows us to trust in the life, death, and resurrection which reconciles us to you. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

On the night that he was wrongfully incarcerated, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it into pieces without the suggestion of privilege or supremacy. He gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, Jesus lifted the cup to those in need of liberation and empowerment, saying, “This cup is the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.” Every time you eat this bread of equity and drink this cup that pours freedom, you proclaim with your life the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes again.

We pray oh Lord, that as we take this bread and this wine as a gift from you that we may celebrate with joy and hope of the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Please pour out your blessings on this bread and this cup as we remember you, your gifts, and your mystery.

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

O God, with gratitude and praise
you have blessed and fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil,
to remind us that in you, everything is already alright.
Send us from this place with purpose and in your power,
blessed, transformed and bent toward the arc of justice
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

♩=68

1. I'm gon-na live so_____ God can use me_____ an - y -
 2. I'm gon-na work so_____ God can use me_____ an - y -
 3. I'm gon-na pray so_____ God can use me_____ an - y -
 4. I'm gon-na sing so_____ God can use me_____ an - y -

- time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____

— I'm gon-na live so_____ God can use me_____
 — I'm gon-na work so_____ God can use me_____
 — I'm gon-na pray so_____ God can use me_____
 — I'm gon-na sing so_____ God can use me_____

— an - y - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 — an - y - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 — an - y - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____
 — an - y - time, Lord,_____ and an - y - where._____

BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

May we remember who we are in the stories of the past.
 May we find our identity in the world we live in now and the world we are creating.
 And may we look to one another to learn and understand. Amen.

CoverArt: Shepley, Rose, "Sound the Trumpet," Original watercolor on canvas, 2020.

Centering Song: Deitrick Haddon "He's Able" CCLI 5103739

Call to Worship: Adapted from

<https://www.moumethodist.org/files/connectional+ministries/liturgical+resources+for+disasters/call+to+worship+and+litan+y+of+lament+and+confession.pdf>

Prayers of Confession and Assurance: Adapted from Tirabassi, Maren. "From Psalm 85." In *A Child Laughs: Personal Prayers of Justice and Hope*. Edited by Maria Mankin and Maren C. Tirabassi. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2017.

Peace of Christ Action: Angelou, Maya. "On This Platform of Peace, We Can Create A Language." Dominican Sisters of Peace. December 21, 2015. <https://oppeace.org/blog/2015/12/21/on-this-platform-of-peace-we-can-create-a-language/>

Poem: <https://www.poetry.com/poem/13744/renewal-of-strength>

Prayer for Illumination: Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. [Holy Blackness: The Matrix of Creation – The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. | Womanists Wading in the Word™](#)

Prayers of the Community: Belletini, Mark. "Reading No. 202." Essay. In *Lifting Our Voices: Readings in the Living Tradition*, 67. Boston, MA: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2015.

Communion Liturgy: <https://mlp.org/document/black-history-month-communion-liturg/> (Edited by Liz Fulmer, 2021)

Closing Song: African-American Spiritual Public Domain

Sending: An African Blessing." Slide Palyer. Accessed July 15, 2021. [An African Blessing. - ppt video online download](#)

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

Mwat Aseleh, Nolan Benner, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke, Equilla Curry, Liz Fulmer, Patty Hall,
Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Rev. Scott Sicciano, Beth Taylor, Rev. Kellie Turner,
Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.
To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.
To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*