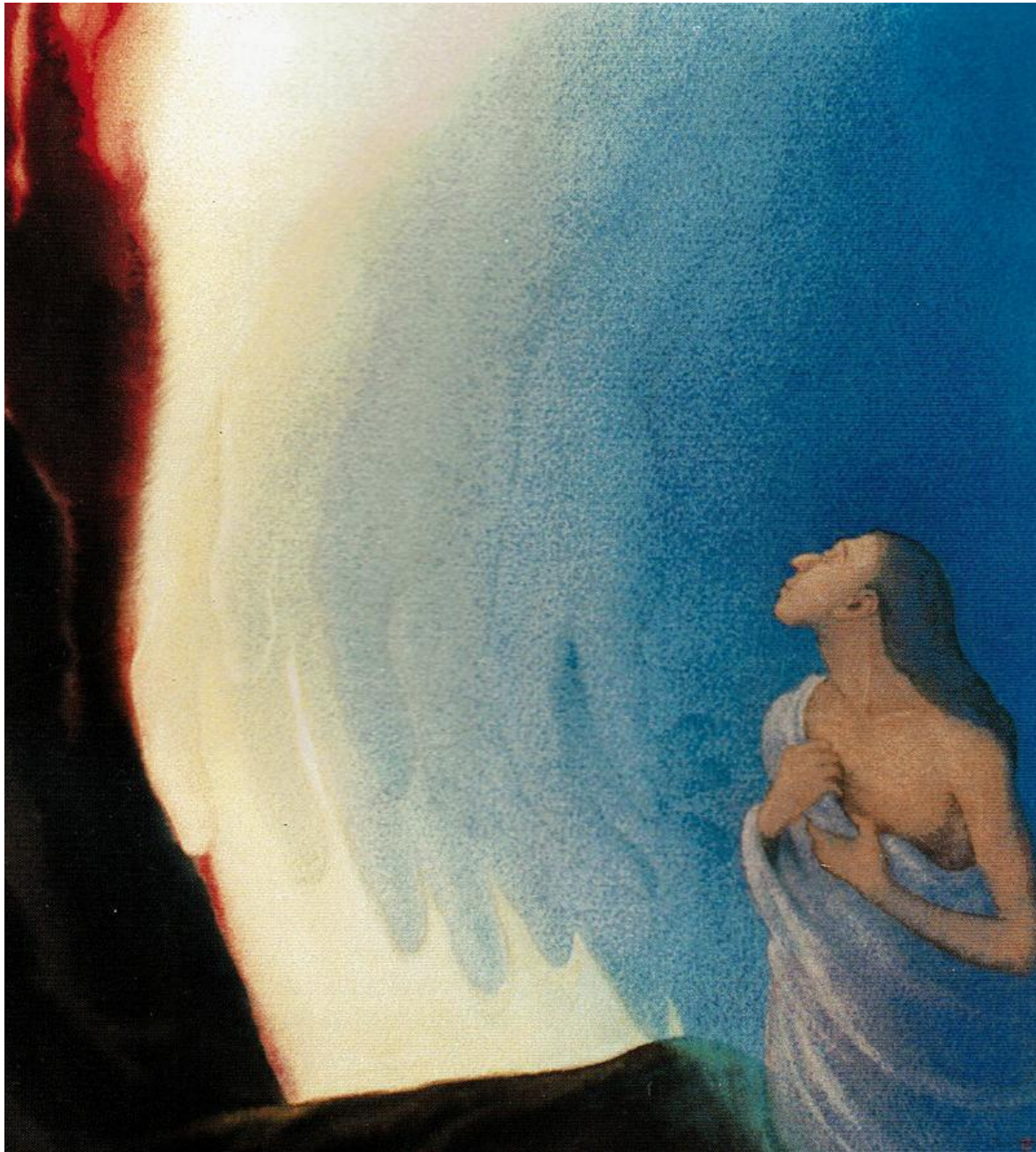


SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

October 25, 2023



"He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." - Exodus 33:14



The Hand of God is My Refuge - Frank Wesley (1923-2002)

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

BALM IN GILEAD

UMH 375 (vs. 1)

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

STUDENT MINISTER

Leader: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens, God reigns over all.

All: In God we live and move and have our being.

Leader: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

All: We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which God has touched our lives.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

All: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN**

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

UMH 103 (1&2)

***CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

Presider: The waters of baptism remind us of God's willingness to forgive us of all our sins; they invite us into this time of confession. Let us pray. Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

St Minister: Whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the hardness of our hearts:

All: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son, Amen.

[Silent prayer]

Presider: Friends of God, we are forgiven. Let us now walk in the light of God's eternal love. Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor. Be mindful that some of our siblings may prefer non-contact ways of passing the peace, so kindly ask before hugging or shaking hands.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Creator God, shower upon us Your wisdom and knowledge. As we receive Your word, may we understand what You have called us to do. We live to fulfill Your purpose so we can see Your kingdom. Illuminate our hearts and reveal to us Your glory. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

EXODUS 33:12-23

NRSV

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. BOB GARVEY

Gracious God, You have commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Help us to do that in community and beyond.

Help us understand the problems our fellow siblings are going through and find ways to help them in ways they need it most. We name these concerns now in the silence of our hearts.

[Silent prayer.]

Help us to love one another even in our differences.

Allow us to receive their love as well. Let us not permit grievances to block giving or receiving love, in Your name we pray, Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: God be with you!

People: And also with you!

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to our God.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the living God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are the Source of all mercies and the Wellspring of love beyond our wildest imaginations. We open our hearts in adoration to you and bring to you our whole selves whom you formed in the image of love in the world.

Amazingly, when we distort that image, you call us back again and again, forgiving us, delivering us from sin and death, feeding, healing, reconciling, making covenant, and setting before us the way that leads to life. Therefore, with your people in all ages, in communion with the saints, and with the whole company of heaven, we join the glad song of unending praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of grace and glory. 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!

Holy are you and blessed be your name, gracious God, for you gave us Jesus, who showed us what the kin-dom of God looks like. He fed the hungry, healed the afflicted, and ate with the scorned and forgotten of this world. He washed his disciple's feet and gave a holy meal as a feast of his ever-present love.

On the night before he died, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us his body and blood. Feed and nurture us with his grace so that, in union with Christ, we may become a living offering to you.

Call to our minds the faith of all our ancestors, from ancient times all the way up to the present. In these moments, with the visions clear in our minds of those who are with us, who stand behind us encouraging us to stand firm in our faith and trust in you and to walk with boldness in the ways you lead us forward. Transform us into the likeness of Christ as we faithfully serve others and as we look forward to that day when we will feast together with all the saints gathered as one at your table.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat. Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

UMH 618

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

God of mystery and wonder, at this and every table you dissolve the distance between the ordinary and the holy; you break the barrier separating the common and the sacred. We thank you for this thin place, this holy space, this well of grace that has satisfied us this day. **Amen.**

***CLOSING SONG**

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

UMH 428 (1&2)

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May our prayers be never ceasing.
May our hope lead to us new beginnings.*

Cover Art: Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. The Hand of God is My Refuge, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59261> [retrieved June 21, 2023]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

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Sending:

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

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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.