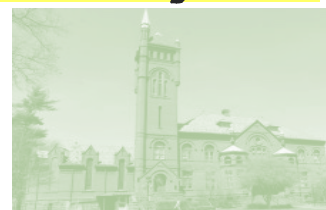


SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

January 17 & 20, 2024



O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

Psalm 139:1



Portrait of a man's face.

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“SANCTUARY”

AAHH 462

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

“MY LORD, YOU HAVE EXAMINED ME”

MARTIN E. LECKEBUSCH

(See pages 9 & 10)

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

Presider: God of our lives,
you search us and know us.
We have refused to take up your cross
to bear the burdens that are ours to carry.
We have not given up our attachments
to possessions or to self.

S. Minister: We have not counted the cost
of walking into an unknown future with you.
Help us turn away from evil,
that we may walk with you once more.

[Time of silent confession.]

S. Minister: The Holy One rejoices in our repentance,
reshaping us into vessels of love and service.

Presider: In the grace-filled love of Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. 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.

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

Let us share this peace with one another.

❖ *DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE, **STUDENT MINISTER** TO LECTERN & **READER** TO PULPIT.*

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT ONLY]

“SELF PORTRAIT”

JOHN LEE CLARK

John Lee Clark is a DeafBlind poet whose self portrait helps us understand that so much of being known is relational.

On the morning of my forty-second birthday

The kneading of my broad swimmer’s back by my beloved is the first gift. I nuzzle my pillow and inhale. I sniff my glorious hands. They take their turn at the giving. She says I am a furnace. In the shower I dig into my bestubbed cheeks. I scrape each fingernail against the right bottom corner of my upper left lateral incisor. My marvelous mouth pats the harvested skin into a soft dab. It rests tasteless on my tongue until I step out. My comb tickles my lips with a bouquet of pandemic hair. I sample the bitter end of a Q-tip and am satisfied. The fennel toothpaste searches me and tries me and finds me lacking in a few places. For Jael still sleeping I am a squeeze at their ankle. For Armand I am a known engulfment from behind. For Azel I am a quip and a laugh on his chest. For loafed and purring Angel I am a massive swoon. For hungry Nib I am two legs to rub against back and forth and to loop around with the most eloquently insistent tail in the animal kingdom.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

God, you have given us your Word
for a light to shine upon our path;
grant us so to meditate on that Word,
and to follow its teaching,
that we may find in it the light that shines
more and more until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 139:1-6; 16-21

NRSV

A reading from Psalm 139, verses 1 through 6 and 16 and 21.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me— those who speak of you maliciously and lift themselves up against you for evil! Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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

SERMON

REV. ANDREA BROWN

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Eternal God, Lover of our souls, we come to you this morning hungering for something from you that will change the rest of our lives.

We come hungering for honesty instead of corruption; for generosity instead of greed; we come hungering for integrity instead of intrigue.

We come hungering for our neighbors to be fed and for all to have enough honest work to provide for the basic needs of their families.

We come this morning hungering for righteousness to flow like rainwater and for the justice like an ever-flowing stream described by the prophets.

We come hungering and we come listening for your words to us, describing how we can participate in your great work of re-creation.

We come listening for ways that we can become part of the solution and not part of the problem.

We come listening in fear and trembling, praying that we will have the courage to respond and act if we hear a clear word of instruction from you.

Speak, Lord, For your children are listening...

(Silence)

Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty and everlasting God.

You created the heavens and the earth;
you preserve us with your care;
you revealed the fullness of your love for us
by sending Jesus Christ.

By his life, death, and resurrection
you have reconciled us to yourself.

With the heavenly host
and with the saints of all times and places,
we lift up our hearts in joyful praise, saying:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord Jesus, the same night he was betrayed, took bread;
and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.”

After the same manner also, he took the cup when they had supped,
saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood:
this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Gracious God,
send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
that the bread which we break
and the cup which we bless
may be to us the communion
of the body and blood of Christ.
Accept the gift of our lives
that we may live in you and serve your kingdom.
Being joined together in Christ,
may your whole church be one;
and at the last day bring us with all your saints
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

Come, for all is now ready. If you wish to partake there are COVID related options printed in your bulletin. Please note that we use grape juice and gluten free bread at this table as a practice of inclusive hospitality. 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 and wish to receive an interfaith prayer of blessing, we invite you to meet the preacher at the baptismal font. Those

joining us online you are welcome to partake now of whatever food and drink you have with you. We are now united at Christ's table.

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

"TASTE AND SEE"

AAHH 680

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

You have fed us holy food, O God,

For this we give you thanks.

You have searched our hearts and tested our thoughts,

You have led us in the way everlasting.

Now may these moments of worship continue as we love you through loving our neighbor,

May your kingdom come, may your will be done in and through us, this day and always. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

"GUIDE MY FEET" (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

AAHH 131

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;

God is the one who will keep you on track.

-Proverbs 3:16 (The Message)

Cover Art: Man Portrait face by FunkyFocus <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/man-portrait-face-human-forest-4603859/>
Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel, from her blog "Hold Fast to What is Good."
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>
Poem: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/156772/self-portrait-6182b8d09329b>
Words of Assurance: Written by Deborah Sokolove for Ministry Matters,
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4139/worship-elements-september-4-2022>
Prayer for Illumination: Author: Jerome, (342 - 420). <https://www.faithandworship.com/early-Christian-prayers.htm>
Prayers of the Community : <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-pastoral-prayer-for-human-relations-day>
Communion Liturgy: Adapted from the Liturgy of the Lord's Supper in the Reformed Church of America.

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

*Equilla Curry, Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Patricia Hall, Jack Kasander, Cam Richesson '23, Deklan Rupp, Rev. Dr. Kellie Turner '18., and DV Yost.
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.*