

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

January 24 & 27, 2024



He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Psalm 62:6



View from an elevated stone window gazing out into the distance.

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“IN GOD ALONE”

TAIZÉ #19

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Come, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

**Holiness present in the solid strength
of the earth beneath us.**

Holiness present in the silent power
of the sun’s rays beaming through space.

**Holiness present in our own breath
that is a gift from God.**

Holiness present in the mystery
of the Spirit that joins us as a church.

**God of creation,
open us to the beauty in and around us
in this time of worship.**

*OPENING HYMN

“HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”

NCH 407

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

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

The Holy One rejoices in our repentance,
reshaping us into vessels of love and service.
In the grace-filled love of Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

“SMALL”

MIHEE KM-KORT

The author offers a poem in response to Psalm 62.

I watch you
small
take socks and shoes off
and walk gingerly into the cold creek
newly freed
after the long winter's end:

stepping on one stone
with both feet,
pausing,
watching the creek pour water on one side,
watching the water gather on the other side;

crouching down now to
watch the fish swimming
the insects that hover above the edge.

your shadows fall across the surface
filling their sky

safely from your rock.

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.

A reading from Psalm 62, verses 5 through 12.

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah. Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Hear what God is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

REV. KATHY KUHN - JAN. 24

REV. KATIE JACKSON - JAN. 27

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

"THE OPEN TABLE" (PG. 9)

MILLER

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

We thank you God for this holy meal. You have met us here with generosity and grace.

May we extend to others your generosity and grace as we depart from this place, but never from your presence. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

"I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD" (vs. 1,2)

AAHH 391

***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: <https://pixabay.com/photos/castle-fortress-architecture-5377692/>

Call to Worship: Written by Carol Penner, from "Leading in Worship." <https://leadinginworship.com/?s=call+to+worship>

Poem: Spong, Martha, ed. 2020. *The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle*. The Pilgrim Press. 62.

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.

The Open Table

1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble.

2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er.

3. God is love; Love is cre - at - ing

Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear.

Share your joys, and bring your tears.

some - thing new, right here, right now.

Known by name, here at the

Strength and hope found at the

We're chil - dren of God, here at the

ta - ble, this ta - ble; wel - come

ta - ble, this ta - ble;

ta - ble, this ta - ble;

here, to the ta - ble of love. love.

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).
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