

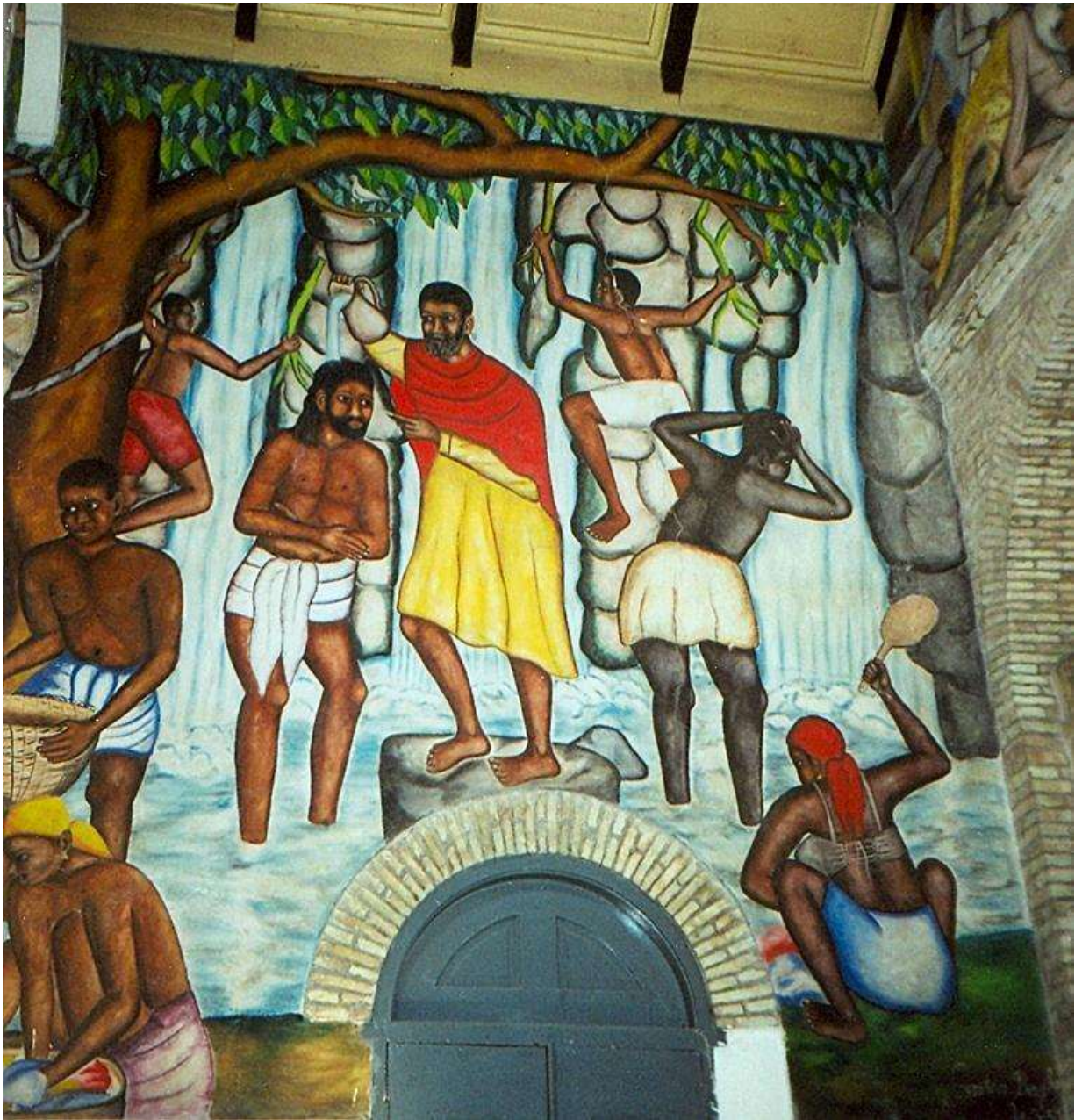
SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

February 21 & 24, 2024



And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:11



One of the many murals painted by Haitian artists from 1950-1951 that once covered the entire interior of the Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT”

AAHH 326

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

Leader: Be still, remember who you are. Come touch the water of your birth.
Be dead to sin, alive to God. Remember who you are in Jesus.

All: We are beloved. We are heirs. We are children of God. We are claimed. We are marked. We are named by God alone. We are chosen and blessed. We are gifted to love; to witness through word and deed.

*OPENING HYMN

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

AAHH 540 (v.1&2)

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

S. Minister: God of all, we confess that we have inherited a faith that was used to justify the theft of native lands and the enslavement of your people.
From this sin, we ask for deliverance.

All: Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.

S. Minister: Touch hearts that have been shriveled by generations of suppressed empathy, and eyes that have lost the ability to see brothers and sisters who suffer from systemic injustice.

All: Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.

S. Minister: As we name and unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice, give us grace to draw deeply from the witness of the movements that have always resisted injustice in the power of your Spirit.

All: Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.

S. Minister: We pray with thanksgiving for the prophetic leaders who guide, challenge and inspire us today. Give us grace to follow them to freedom.

All: Forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord, and in your mercy, set us free.

(Silent Confession)

Presider: Hear the good news! By the mercy of our steadfast God, we are united with Christ in whom we are forgiven and made whole. Receive that assurance!

***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.

Service of the Word

POEM

“DAWN”

KWESI BREW

Kwesi Brew is an Ghanaian poet and diplomat. In this poem, he draws upon how each day brings us a fresh start.

When the red-combed cockerel
Stretches to its full feathery height
Yellow beak pointing heavenward,
Fanfares its strident reveille,
To break a sweet honest sleep and dry up
Night-bound dreams, drenched with the anguish of fear;
When the stars pale
And the silence of the night
Lingers in the trees with the birds
Bursting their lungs with song,
Flower of notes in short simple melodies;
Let your mind be pure water
From the stream to wash away
Impure desires and thoughts from your heart.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING**MARK 1:9-15****NRSV**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

SERMON

REV. DR. CATHERINE E. WILLIAMS - FEB. 21

REV. RICHARD HAMPTON - FEB. 24

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**STUDENT MINISTER**

**Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.
Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise. aise.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with siblings, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

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.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given to you." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it."

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and cup. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole.

And as the bread and juice which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, loving and caring in the world. Amen.

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. 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. 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.

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

“WE REMEMBER YOU”

AAHH 683

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRESIDER

Loving and holy God, when the taste of cup and bread fade from our lips, remind our hearts to continue facing the rising sun. For it is in you that we find mercy. It is in you we have our hope. **For this meal we have shared and the truth it represents, we give you thanks. Amen.**

***CLOSING SONG**

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

AAHH 540 (vs. 3)

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

–from “Lift Every Voice and Sing”
James Weldon Johnson 1871-1938

Altar Coverings: As we commemorate Black History month, our altar panels have been covered by the artwork of Schirlyn Kamara. Schirlyn is a local self-taught African-American artist who works in a number of mediums. Her Santee Chapel installation “Sisters and Saints” consists of 6 wooden panels (acrylic) depicting black and brown women in various postures of prayer and praise. Painting is a spiritual discipline for Schirlyn and she hopes that her art inspires, causes people to pay closer attention to the world around them, and positively impacts their lives. We are grateful for her sharing her gifts with our community!

Cover Art: Bazile, Castera. “Baptism of Jesus,” from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54305>. Additional information on the artist at <https://haitianartsociety.org/bazile-castera-haitian-1923-1966>.

Call to Worship: Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia, “Call to Worship for Baptism of the Lord,” thepastorsworkshop.com, 2021, <https://bit.ly/3pL57tU>.

Poem: Brew, Kwesi. 1995. *Return of No Return: And Other Poems*. Accra: Afram. 41-42.

Words of Confession & Assurance: “Prayer of Lament,” ChurchofEngland.org, accessed July 11, 2023, <https://bit.ly/43o9hWa>

Prayer of Illumination: “Prayers for Illumination,” worshipleaderguide.blogspot.com, accessed July 11, 2023, <http://worshipleaderguide.blogspot.com/2009/06/prayers-for-illumination.html>

Prayers of the Community: Adapted from Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. 1995. *Book of Rutual*. (New and Revised). Memphis: The Department of Publications Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. 56.

Communion Liturgy: “Communion Liturgy Iona 2020.” Iona Community. 2020. https://media.acny.uk/media/Communion_Liturgy_Iona_2020.pdf

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

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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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.*