

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

October 16 and 19, 2024

Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;- Amos 5:15a

National Coming Out Day



This artwork is by cartoonist and satirist, Clay Bennett of the Chattanooga Free Press. In it, we are reminded that no one, no institution, no legislation can ever separate us from God's unconditional love.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

“ALL GOOD”

LIZ FULMER

Chorus 1: We're all good, we're all beloved
God took breath and dust and made us all from it
Every part of our design is God-blessed and God-signed
Chorus 2: We're all good, we're all beloved
God took breath and dust and made us all from it
Every part of who we are is God-blessed and God-marked
Chorus 3: We're all good, we're all beloved
God took breath and dust and made us all from it
Every part of you and me is God-blessed and God-breathed
Is God-marked, God-signed

GREETING

PRESIDER

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

WORSHIP LEADER

It is impossible to name You, even now, as we turn to pray. We attempt many:

**God and Teacher and Healer and Refuge and Savior and Redeemer and
Guide and Friend**

And still, we cannot pin you down. No word defines You...

**You live in the space between, in the tremor of opposites coming together in
unimaginable possibilities.**

Draw us to You...

**In this queer space that You - the Nothing and the Everything, the Creator
and the Child - inhabit so gracefully. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

“QUEERLY BELOVED”(v. 1&2)

AMANDA UDIS-KESSLER

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

W. Leader:

It is so hard to say, “we were wrong.” It is only here, in the intimacy of prayer with a God who became vulnerable to us that we can dare to whisper in Your ear: “we thought we were being kind. We thought we were being good, and righteous and following Your word. We thought we were saving souls.”

God of mercy, now we know that judgment and salvation are your tasks, not ours. Return us to Your call to care and serve all Your children. May we never again call profane those whom you have made beloved. Amen.

Silence for personal prayer.

Presider:

God offers peace to our troubled souls. In every circumstance, Eternal Love is with us. Know that we are forgiven. May we rest in that assurance.
Amen!

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

WORSHIP LEADER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor if you're gathered together. If you're online please share this greeting in the chat.

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

ON COMING OUT

LEE MOKOBE

Lee Mokobe is a 19-year-old slam poet from South Africa who explores social injustice and gender identity issues through poetry and performance. He is also founder of Vocal Revolutionaries, a volunteer-run literary organization focused on empowering African youth.

The first prayer I uttered
was in a glass-stained cathedral.
I was kneeling long after the congregation was on its feet.
I dipped both hands in holy water
traced the trinity across my chest
my tiny body drooping like a question mark
all over the wooden pew.
I asked Jesus to fix me.
When he did not answer,
I befriended silence in the hope
that my sin would burn inside my mouth,
would dissolve like sugar on the tongue.
But shame lingered as an aftertaste.
And in an attempt to reintroduce me to sanctity,
my mother reminded me of the miracle I was,
that I could grow up to be anything I want.
I decided to be a boy.

It was cute.
I had a snapback, toothless grin,
used skinned knees as street cred
played hide and seek with what was left of my girl.
I was it.
The winner of a game that other kids couldn't play.
I was the mystery of an anatomy,
a question asked but not answered
tightroping between awkward boy and apologetic girl.
Naturally I did not come out of the closet.
The kids at my school opened it without my permission.
They called me by a name I did not recognize.
Said "lesbian."

But I was more boy than girl,
more Ken than Barbie.
It had nothing to do with hating my body.
I just love it enough to let it go.
I treat it like a house.
And when your house is falling apart,
you do not evacuate.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

WORSHIP LEADER

Holy Spirit, open all the spaces of our beings to be filled with your wisdom and insights. Breathe on us, Breath of God. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:6-7,10-15

NRSVUE

A reading from the Book of Amos, chapter 5, verses 6-7, 10-15.

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you who turn justice to wormwood and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins - you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe and push aside the needy in the gate.

Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

May we discern what God is saying to us. **May it be so!**

SERMON

REV. DR. KELLIE TURNER

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

WORSHIP LEADER

God, bless those who long to see You but do not know how to find You. Who navigate a maze of coded language, quick assumptions and deadly expectations.

Bless those who used to sing Your praises but whose song was stolen by those who claimed it didn't sound right, it wasn't natural, it wasn't how God made them.

Bless those who stayed too long because they thought they were loved but that love came with so many strings eventually they could not even move.

Bless those who are still searching inside and outside the walls of Your church for a glimpse of the You who created them as an incomplete, but vital mirror.

Bless those who stopped their search long ago, and give them peace even if they never know it was You, even if they never "return."

Bless them because You are Love, and Love is what you do. Amen.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God who shapes our world.

For every creature and creation, we give you thanks, O God!

Indeed, we give you thanks, Our Divine Creator. You declared from the beginning that we were created in your image, a reflection of what is holy, each, in our own way, a glimpse of you. We praise the works of your creative hand that fills our life with beauty. Every flower that blooms, every animal that delights, every body of water that sustains our life – all part of your good works.

We look to Jesus, who showed us what it looks like to live into our true selves as people of God. He was humble yet grounded in your love for him. He sought out the despised and made them friends. He confronted every power that belittled, marginalized, and oppressed. His commitment to living out the image of God enfleshed could not be swayed, even in the face of death.

On the night of his arrest, he gathered around a table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

Even in death, O God, your love prevailed. Through your Spirit, Christ was raised from the grave. No person, no institution, no force of evil could extinguish the work of your hand. And so, by the same Spirit, bless these gifts of bread and cup that they may be the living Christ within us today; compelling us to be agents of love, uncompromising on our commitment to protecting every one of your creatures and creations. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRISIDER

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.

COMMUNION SONG

FOR EVERYONE BORN

SHIRLEY MURRAY

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

PRISIDER

God of abundance, we give you thanks for the grace we experience at your Table. For forgiveness. For connection. For sustenance. For a renewed vision of who we are. Our gratitude abounds. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG**

“QUEERLY BELOVED”(v.3)

AMANDA UDIS-KESSLER

***BENEDICTION**

REV. DR. KELLIE TURNER

SENDING & POSTLUDE

INSTRUMENTAL

*God's love is unending, God's patience is inexhaustible
God expects great love and patience from us as well
God's righteous anger we see in scripture is born of our willful refusal to be so
May we strive for a righteousness that makes God smile*

Queerly Beloved

Amanda Udis-Kessler

♩ = 174

Chords: D, A/D, G/D, A/D, D, A/D, G/D, A/D

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays chords in a 3/4 time signature, and the left hand plays a simple bass line.

Chords: D, A/D, G/D, A/D, Gmaj7, D/F#, Em7 D/F# G

9 Queer-ly be - lov - ed, we have as - sem - bled, join - ing in won - der, sing - ing in
 9 Queer-ly be - lov - ed, we have been hat - ed, treat - ed as out - casts, rag - ged and
 Queer-ly be - lov - ed, we have dis - cov - ered love that is per - fect, end - ing our

The first system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with the same chords as the introduction.

Chords: A, A/G, D/F#, F#m, G, Em7, F#m7

16 praise. Lift - ing our eyes, rais - ing our voi - ces, trust - ing in hope, in
 16 rough. Still we per - sist, joy - ous and grate - ful, trust - ing in that grace, in
 fear. There is a truth wait - ing to claim us. There is a call so

The second system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with the same chords as the introduction.

Biblical references: 1 John 4:18

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23

G A D D/F# G Bm Em7

love, and in faith. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 ev - er e - nough. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 strong and so clear. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

30

D/F# A sus A D D A/D G/D A/D D 1, 2

lu - ia, God is great!
 lu - ia, God is love!
 lu - ia, God is here!

30 A/D 1, 2

39

G/D A/D 3. A/D G/D A/D D

rit.

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 23-29) features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the vocal line: G, A, D, D/F#, G, Bm, and Em7. The second system (measures 30-38) continues the vocal and piano parts. Chords above the vocal line are D/F#, A sus, A, D, D, A/D, G/D, A/D, and D. A first ending bracket labeled '1, 2' spans measures 36-38. The piano part includes a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking in measure 36. The third system (measures 39-41) shows the final part of the piece. Chords above the vocal line are G/D, A/D, 3. A/D, G/D, A/D, and D. A final ending bracket labeled '1, 2' spans measures 40-41. The piano part continues with the 'rit.' marking.

For Everyone Born

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bus - ed, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver -
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's
 for young and for old, the right to be -
 for just and un - just, a new way to
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-; Sp. fr. John Glaser, 1961-; Fr. fr. Evelynne Bernard, 1973-
 Music: Brian Mann, 1979-

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New Zealand U.S.A.
 11.10.11.10, and refrain
 FOR EVERYONE BORN

JUSTICE

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The guitar part includes various chords and a 'Refrain' section. The lyrics are: 'head, fair, long, live, free. And God will de-light when we are cre- a-tors of jus-tice and joy, com-pas-sion and peace: yes, God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus-tice and joy.'

System 1: Chords: E, Bsus4, B, Refrain E, E/G#.

System 2: Chords: A2, Bsus4, E, E/G#, A2, Bsus4 - B.

System 3: Chords: CEm7, E/B, A2.

System 4: Chords: Bsus4, B, E, Bsus4 - B, last time E.

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Cover Art: Cover Art: National Coming Out Day by Cartoonist Clay Bennett of the Chattanooga Free Press

<https://hmi.org/event/national-coming-out-day/> (accessed June 22, 2024)

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Confession and Assurance of Pardon: Adapted from Covenant Network of Presbyterians: <https://bit.ly/4esTIJO>

Prayers of the Community: Adapted Covenant Network of Presbyterians: <https://bit.ly/4esTIJO>

Poem: An excerpt from "On Coming Out" by Lee Mokobe. Published in Ted fellows June 2015.

<https://fellowsblog.ted.com/on-coming-out-8a0340dd6624> (accessed June 22, 2024)

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from <https://enfleshed.com/project/lgbtqia-related/>

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

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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.