

ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

SARAH

Friends, let us worship God together this day, for God has blessed us with life, faith, and community. As we come, let us remember God's goodness to us: God forgives us, encourages us, and loves us. Let us come and worship God together because we are God's people. Amen.

WELCOME

MOLLY/PHILIP

You Are Welcome!

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome here:*

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

*If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.*

If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.

If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,

If you are transgender, you are welcome.

If you identify as a man, woman, or gender non-conforming, you are welcome.

If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.

If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.

*If you believe in God some of the time,
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

You are welcome here!

Come with your gifts, your pains, and hopes, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind ready to engage, and a heart open to discern.

Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to

love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice,

create peace and practice compassion

...

You are welcome here

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHRISTOPHE/JANE

One: We gather this day as people of God

All: We are strangers and friends

*One: Nous sommes connus et inconnus les uns des autres
(We are known and unknown to each other)*

All: But we are all people of God

*One: हम सब भगवान से प्यार कर रहे हैं
(We are all loved by God)*

All: And one another

*One: 我們聚集在一起去敬拜。
(We gather to worship)*

All: To offer our concerns

One: And our joys

All: And our prayers

*One: Mahalin ang isa't isa
(To love another)*

All: And to be loved by one another

*One: Venimos porque tenemos sed de gracia
(We come because we thirst for grace)*

All: We come because we hunger for justice

*One: 우리는 이상한 땅에서 낯선 사람으로 온다
(We come as strangers in a strange land)*

All: Let us come and find a home in our worship

One: We come because God welcomes us

All: We are all welcome in God's presence. Amen.

SONG OF CELEBRATION

GATHER US IN

BONNIE

INVITATION TO PRAYER

APRIL

Friends, there are many things in our lives that cause different kinds of separations in our lives. Let us admit to God that there is a deep chasm between ourselves and our neighbors, and also between ourselves and God. Relying on the love that never fails, let us turn to God for mercy.

First in silent prayer.

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

Let us pray with prayerful hearts.

Loving and merciful God, you know our hearts, and you know our lives. We confess to you that which causes separation among your people, that which causes pain in our lives, that which causes distress for the vulnerable, and that which breaks down people and not build them up. We confess to you our part in those things. And in humility and hope, we ask for your help to do better, to reconcile, to heal, to soothe, to build up so we may love you and our neighbors with our whole hearts. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

Friends, love never fails, and love always builds up. Love gives hope, and love gives life. Friends, know that God loves you and may that knowledge gives you hope. Live in God's love. Amen.

Please hug yourself with the love of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

BE NOT AFRAID

MOLLY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MICHAEL

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and do it. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-16

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, ² seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"

⁵ Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. ⁶ "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

⁷ Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Yes, Lord."

¹¹ The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ Ananias countered, “Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He’s here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name.”

¹⁵ The Lord replied, “Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

MESSAGE

“NO PAIN, NO GAIN”

SONIA RODRIGUEZ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

REV. SHIN HWA

COMMUNITY LIFE

CLOSING SONG

LET US PUT ON THE CLOTHES OF CHRIST

ANDREA

BENEDICTION