



the open door ~ praise & worship service
...in a religion born in a barn, an open door goes without saying
03.21.18 • 7:00 pm

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "O Lord Hear My Prayer" Taizé

Song "God Is Great"

Centering Quote [from "Now and Then" by Frederick Buechner]

*We are so used to hearing what we want to hear and remaining deaf
to what it would be well for us to hear that it is hard to break the habit.*

*But if we keep our hearts and minds open as well as our ears, if we listen with patience and hope,
if we remember at all deeply and honestly, then I think we come to recognize, beyond all doubt,
that, however faintly we may hear God, God is indeed speaking to us.*

Song "Meet With Me"

Hebrew Bible Reading "Jeremiah 31:31-34" [NRSV]

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel Reading "John 12:20-33" [MSG]

²⁰ Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." ²² Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. ²⁴ I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

²⁷ "Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard and said, "It's thunder." Others said, "An angel spoke to him."

³⁰ Jesus replied, "This voice wasn't for my benefit but for yours. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. ³² When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (³³ He said this to show how he was going to die.)

The World of God to the people of God! **Thanks be to God!**

Prayers of the People

Call to Reconciliation

If we would see Jesus, we must open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we must speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we must confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

***O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives,
yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others,
but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness,
yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world.***

***Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives,
and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own.***

***In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls,
come to us and make us whole, Steadfast Love. Write grace upon our hearts,
so we might be more forgiving people; write mercy on our hearts,
so we might become more welcoming people;
write hospitality upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us.***

[Silent prayers of confession are lifted...]

Assurance of Pardon

A new heart, a generous spirit, a fresh start: these are the gifts our God gives to us.

***Through Christ, we are cleansed; through Christ, we are healed;
through Christ, we become new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.***

Presentation of the Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion *[please refer to insert]*

Anthem "God of All Creation"

Song "God of Wonders"

Song "Without You"

Benediction & Passing the Peace

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