



# Mid-Week Lent Worship

March 17 , 2021

## PRELUDE

“Retrospection”

- Florence B. Price

“King of Kings” *Organ Music of Black Composers, Past and Present*

## DIALOGUE

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**

to herald your love in the morning,

**your truth at the close of the day.**

## SONG

### ***Down to the River to Pray***

*Slaves knew that their problems could not be dealt with “academically”, they could not debate the issue. They dealt with it as it was, not as it might have been if God had acted “justly”. They attended to the present realities of despair and loneliness that would inevitably lead to lost faith and lost community. However, this suffering is not too much to bear if there are brothers and sisters to go down in the valley to pray with you.*

- James H. Cone, *The Spirituals and the Blues*

**We all met at the river to pray, heard what the preacher had to say  
and saw the light that very day, O Lord you are the way  
O sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

**We all met at the river to pray, heard what the preacher had to say  
and saw the light that very day, O Lord you are the way  
O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O brothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

**We all met at the river to pray, heard what the preacher had to say  
and saw the light that very day, O Lord you are the way**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

## SCRIPTURE READING

**Psalms 96:1-6; 11-13**

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day after day.

<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

he is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the LORD made the heavens.

<sup>6</sup> Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

<sup>12</sup> Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;

let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

<sup>13</sup> Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes,

he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

and the peoples in his faithfulness.

## REFLECTION

*John Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson*

John Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson were a part of the NAACP when they composed and wrote "Lift Every Voice and Sing." It was first performed in their hometown of Jacksonville, Florida by schoolchildren from a segregated school. It is now known as "The Black National Anthem," and can also be found in our ELW hymnal.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing, 'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

*How does music teach us about theology? How does it help us in prayer?*

## RESPONSE

Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, **who shepherds the people and sets them free.**  
God raises from David's house **A child with power to save.**  
Through the holy prophets, **God promised in ages past**  
To save us from enemy hands, **From the grip of all who hate us.**  
The Lord favored our ancestors, **Recalling the sacred covenant,**  
The pledge to our ancestor Abraham, **To free us from our enemies,**  
So we might worship without fear, **And be holy and just all our days.**  
And you, child, will be called **prophet of the Most High,**  
For you will come to prepare **A pathway for the Lord**  
By teaching the people salvation, **Through forgiveness of their sin.**  
Out of God's deepest mercy, **A dawn will come from on high,**  
Light for those shadowed by death, **A guide for our feet on the way of peace.**

*Benedictus, Zechariah's Song (Luke 1:68-79)*

## SONG

**We all met at the river to pray, heard what the preacher had to say  
and saw the light that very day, O Lord you are the way  
O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O sisters, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

**We all met at the river to pray, heard what the preacher had to say  
and saw the light that very day, O Lord you are the way**

## POEM "Open Unto Me" Howard Thurman

Open unto me—light for my darkness.  
**Open unto me—courage for my fear.**  
Open unto me—hope for my despair.  
**Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.**

Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.

**Open unto me—strength for my weakness.**

Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.

**Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.**

Open unto me—tenderness for my toughness.

**Open unto me—love for my hates.**

Open unto me—Thy Self for myself.

**Lord, Lord, open unto me!**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

"Melody"

- Samuel Coleridge Taylor

"King of Kings" *Organ Music of Black Composers, Past and Present*

*If you are interested in reading more from the authors, whose works have been read during our Lenten midweek services, please contact Pastor Courtney for more information.*



## Participants

- Worship Leaders: Pastor Courtney Steitz, Pastor Michael TeKrony  
Denise Ikenberry, Gaylene Szaltzer, Michael Boehm, Eric Kurtz
- Musicians: Kevin & Diane Klinkerfues, Brenda Gleason,  
Larry Lagerberg, Karen Novess