



Mid-Week Lent Worship

March 3, 2021

PRELUDE

“Melody”

- Samuel Coleridge Taylor

“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

There is a Balm in Gilead

Red ELW 614

“Hope, in the black spirituals, is not a denial of history, rather it accepts and believes that it is fluid moving toward a divine fulfillment through God. It is the belief that things can be changed, reality is not fixed, their real meaning of existence was still to come. As Howard Thurman put it: “It is an optimism that uses the pessimism of life as raw material out of which it creates its own strength.”

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

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,

but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

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

Lamentations 3:16-24

He has made my teeth grind on gravel,
and made me cower in ashes;
17 my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
18 so I say, "Gone is my glory,
and all that I had hoped for from the LORD."
19 The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!
20 My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.
21 But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

REFLECTION

*A reflection from Soong-Chan Rah from his article
"Lament is a Necessary Step Towards Healing"*

Lament has to become a part of our story and a part of our healing journey. Lament, therefore, becomes a necessary expression of spirituality, particularly given our tendency toward exceptionalism and triumphalism. Triumphalism seeks the quick fix and exceptionalism assumes the capacity to find the quick fix. The ultimate hope of triumph rests not on human strength to fix the problems of the world but on the power of a sovereign God. The spiritual practice of lament acknowledges the source of hope. Lament helps the people of God find hope even in the midst of suffering.

The practice of lament introduces a spirituality that is more communal in its trajectory. Individual voices are heard but they collectively offer a more fully orbed perspective on the reality of human suffering. Lament does not simply explain away suffering. Instead lament allows for the suffering to speak and contribute to the larger story. The narrative is not merely an expression of the privileged and the powerful but of the

humble. Lament is not a passive act but a subversive act of protest against the status quo.

The current status quo exalts in a dysfunctional narrative of power. Power is sought at all costs even at the cost of submitting to corrupt world powers. Seeking to restore human greatness will not bring about healing. But speaking truth to power through lament can be a small step towards healing."

Why is lament powerful? How does lament help to build community?

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

There is a Balm in Gilead

Red ELW 614

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.

**Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.**

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

"Give Me Jesus"

- Cardon Burnham

"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: Jordan & Kirsten Ortman