



Mid-Week Lent Worship

March 24, 2021

PRELUDE

“Elegy”

- 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

Give Me Jesus

Red ELW 770

For slaves, Jesus was the fixed point of certainty in a world of uncertainties, contradictions, and death. He bestowed upon the people a status of being, enabling them to transcend death, and therefore escape it.

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

In the morning, when I rise,

In the morning, when I rise,

In the morning, when I rise,

Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest,

Give me Jesus.

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

Romans 12:9-16a

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another.

REFLECTION

An excerpt from Kaitlin Curtice's article "Holding Solidarity Amid Collective Grief."

In this global COVID-19 pandemic, we are reeling from individual and collective grief. We are trying to figure out what life looks like on the other side, hoping for something "normal" but unsure of what that even means. But in the meantime, we can practice this work of solidarity with one another. This means our only way of being is understanding our tie to the collective embrace. This doesn't mean we can't individually grieve; we all have things that are happening in our lives that are deeply personal and affect only us in this time. But we also hold a collective reminder of **our** grief, the grief of the whole, the worldwide grief that acknowledges all that is broken.

We hold solidarity with disabled people who gave early warning messages that abled people didn't listen to.

We hold solidarity with the inequity of black, Indigenous, and people of color populations that are being disproportionately affected by this.

We hold solidarity with parents who are exhausted and feel like they can't get anything done and with those who are alone and need someone to hug them.

We hold solidarity with high school and college seniors who won't get to walk in graduation ceremonies and with elders who can't hug their grandchildren.

We hold solidarity with essential workers who are exhausted and scared of getting sick every single day.

We hold solidarity with the heroes who are making masks and raising funds to help others through hard times.

We hold solidarity with those who have lost their friends and family members and can't attend their funerals in person...

Let's choose solidarity from here on out, so that when we cross the threshold, no one is left behind, and everyone is embraced just as they are.

*What do you think of when you hear the word solidarity?
No matter what we may be facing, how does our faith invite us
to live in solidarity with those around us?*

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

Give Me Jesus

Oh, when I come to die,

Oh, when I come to die,

Oh, when I come to die,

Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, Give me Jesus.

You may have all the rest,

Give me Jesus.

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

“Were You There”

- Uzee Brown

“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 Ortman, Eric Kurtz