

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION SUNDAY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

10 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

It is with great excitement to share with you the 2022 Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Sunday worship, “Made in God’s Image: God’s Boundless Diversity!” This resource is not only a celebratory worship for our RIC partners, but it is also a preview of the upcoming Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN, July of 2022. In the spirit of youth and the voices of our young people, this worship resource is centered on and created for LGBTQIA+ and ally youth!



GATHERING

Pastor (P) In God’s Boundless Diversity, we are all Made in God’s Image! We gather together in this time and space, breathing in the Spirit’s invitation to connect and learn, and answer Jesus’ call to justice and action.

I PLEDGE CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Congregation (C) **To be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, and other siblings from God’s diverse Kin-don, we commit to daily bettering ourselves and being active in our advocacy. We dedicate ourselves to staying informed, speaking up, being honest, and supporting justice work everyday.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Holy Parent, and of the ☩ Child, and of the Holy Spirit, ever-present in our lives.

C **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Your people, Lord, long to feel seen, named, and cared for. The church has excluded and pushed away people, calling them “other” and “different” and awaits for those harmed to lead the work of reconciliation.

Today we worship, with open hearts and minds, readying ourselves for the holy ministry of justice and equity work. As your people, we know God is with us and that your Holy Spirit makes reconciliation possible.

As we learn how to make church a safer space.

C we trust in the Spirit's guidance.

P As we seek to be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and all who are told they are "other"

C we trust in the Spirit's guidance.

P As we seek to learn more about the intersectionality of ministry

C we trust in the Spirit's guidance.

P It is with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and grace of Jesus, we confess and ask forgiveness. We proclaim with joy and love that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) matter; that neuro-diversity and differing abilities of bodies are sacred; and that we as a church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, transphobia, and any other sin that makes people feel less than because of who God lovingly made them to be. We commit our words and action to be ones of advocacy for all of the people in your Kin-Dom. Holy Creator, we celebrate your boundless diversity, and see the ways we are made in Your image.

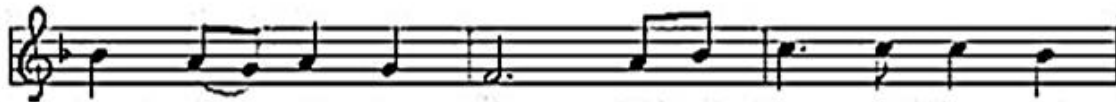
C Amen.



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 stran-ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter.



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Mighty God, soften our hearts this day as we seek to hear your words and commands. In a world where we are daily confronted with ways we are different, told to make ourselves smaller for the convenience of others, teach us as your people how to celebrate your boundless diversity reflected in every person who is made in your image! To have safe spaces is to experience your saving grace. Guide us to be people of faith who are committed to learning and re-learning what it means to welcome, include, celebrate, and advocate for all you call Beloved.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

P The holy gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogues were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *For All the Children*



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple To
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, That
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives Cut
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture When



raise our song a - bove, And we dare to claim the
 one day they be free; And we sing for gen - er -
 short by fear and shame So a - fraid of who they
 chil - dren far and wide, Can— live their lives with



pro - mise of Your love, ———— Though the
 a - tions yet to be, ———— That they
 are and whom they love. ———— May the
 dig - ni - ty and pride. ———— As they



day may not yet be here, We ———— trust it soon will
 nev - er have a rea - son To ———— doubt that they are
 mess - age now be ban - ished That Your love is for the
 grow in strength and sta - ture, May they join us hand in



be, When your chil - dren — will be free. —
blest. May they, in Your — love, find rest. —
few, May their faith in — You re - new. —
hand, As a - gainst all — hate we stand. —

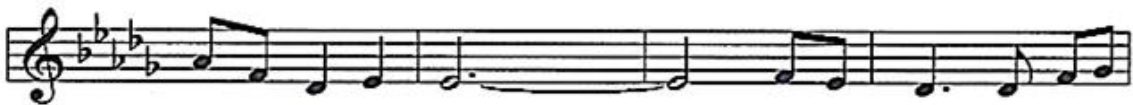
REFRAIN



— O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, Fling the



church doors o - pen wide. May there be room e - nough for



ev-'ry-one in - side. — For in God there is a



wel - come, In God we all be - long. May that



wel - come — be our song. —

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends: God in your mercy.

Congregational response: Hear our prayer.


OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN




I reach in my pock - et — to



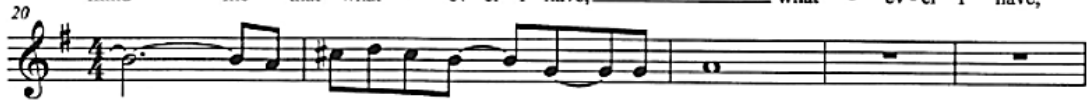
6 pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real-ly — mine. It's not, Lord, I



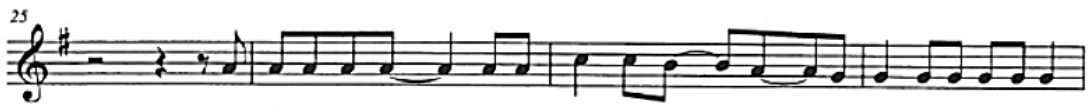
10 know, but I cling to — it so — un - til my — soul's voice can — re -



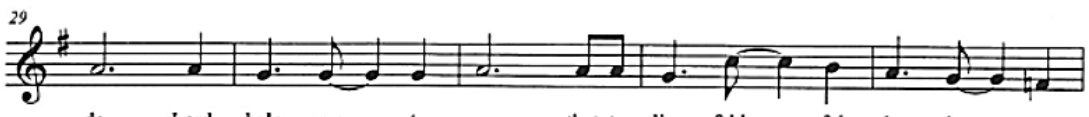
15 mind me that what - ev - er I have, — what - ev - er I have,



20 — what - ev - er I have, — Lord, — is yours.



25 I vis-it with you — for an hour on Sun - days — as if it's a fav-or I



29 do. Lord, help me — to see that to live faith - ful - ly is — to

34

 turn my— days o - ver— to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39

 ——— what - ev - er I have, ——— what - ev - er I have, — Lord, — is

43

 yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48

 gift like no oth - er. — The bread and the wine — make me free. The best gift — of

52

 yours is the son we — a - dore. — The on - ly — gift I have — is

57

 me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, ——— what - ev - er I have, —

62

 ——— what - ev - er I have, — Lord, — is yours.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C Our creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P Siblings in Christ, let us go out into the world in peace; take up the pledge to be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and all those in need of inclusion and advocacy, and leave this space with a fervent passion for welcome.

C Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN 715 *Christ Be our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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- A We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:
- C to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.
- P Gathered into one by the Spirit, we go in peace to serve the Creator. Seek God's boundless diversity in all you see, and know you are made in God's image!
- C Thanks be to God.

+ + +



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF KRIS KNAB.
WE STILL FEEL YOUR LOVE AND SPIRIT.
NATHAN, ERIN, & DOUG

Calendar for January 30 - February 6

| | | | | |
|------|----|------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Jan. | 30 | Sun. | 10:00 am | Worship, Ministry of Reconciliation |
| Feb. | 2 | Wed. | noon | Bible study (online) |
| Feb. | 6 | Sun. | 10:00 am | Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany |

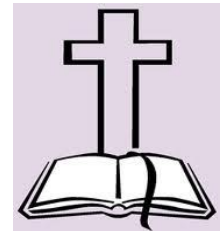
Next Sunday's Readings: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

[Isaiah 6:1-8 \[9-13\]](#)

[Psalm 138](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)

[Luke 5:1-11](#)



SERVING TABLE

| Serving | January 30 | February 6 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Presiding | Pastor Tom | Pastor Tom |
| Preaching | Pastor Tom | Pastor Tom |
| Assisting Minister | Colleen Holdcraft | Rob Schiffer |
| Cup Minister | N/A | |
| Lector | Mark Bertolami | Colleen Holdcraft |
| Cantors | Kirsten Ebbesen Martin Guttenplan | |
| Altar Guild | Caroline Collins Andrea Notley | Rita Ford Susan Warren |
| Counters | Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman | Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer |
| Announcements | Pastor Tom | Pastor Tom |

PRAYER REQUESTS

New concerns: Ruth Hartung and family, mourning the passing of her brother, Richard; Tim Larson and family mourning the passing of Tim's brother, Jon; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; Gladys Kane, recovering from surgery; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.); for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

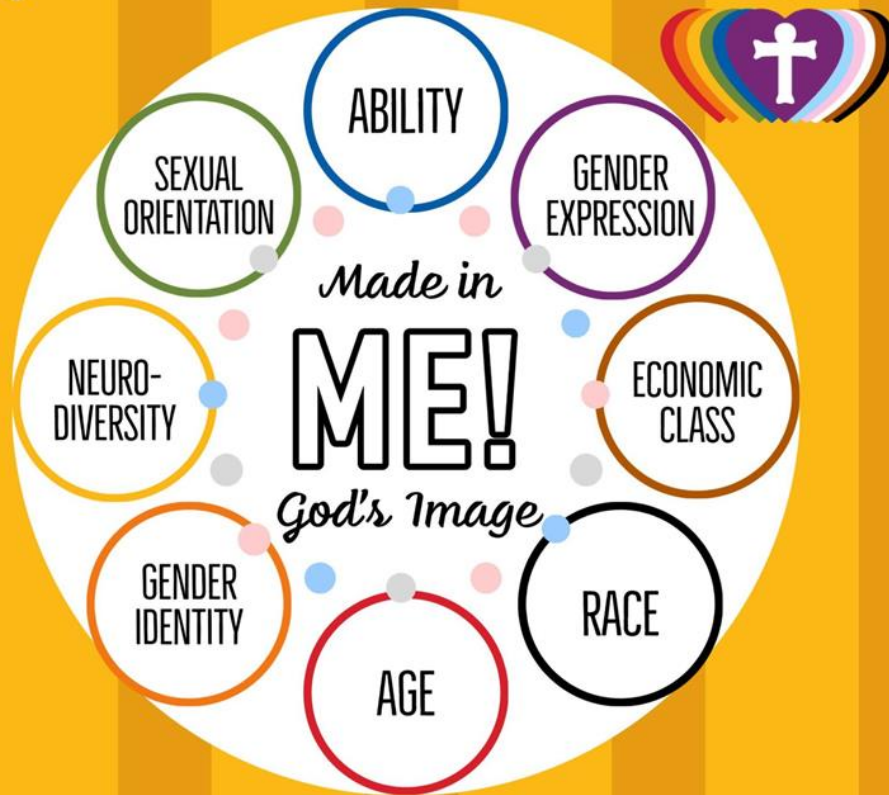
OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022: Offering envelopes for next year are available for pick-up in the Fellowship hall.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2022: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK: Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.

MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

God's Boundless Diversity



2022 RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC)
SUNDAY WORSHIP RESOURCE

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

