

WORSHIP: PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Sunday, February 12, 2023

9:30 am

PRELUDE

“Arietta”

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water –
Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, the Skokie Lagoons,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.

Refrain

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!

We praise you, O God, for our water stories –
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.
We remember the waters of Jesus –
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob’s Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples’ feet. *Refrain*

We praise you, O God, for this font,
 for you breathe into this water
 to wash away the sin that divides us
 and birth us each day into your peace and joy.
 O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
 O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
 O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
 We praise you, O God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
 today, tomorrow, forever. *Refrain*

Text from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission. Adapted by The Rev. Allison Bengfort.

GATHERING HYMN

The Sacred Realm is Like the Yeast

The sa-cred realm is like the yeast a Wom-an stirs in flour; then wait-ing for the
 The leav-en that the Wom-an used was hat-ed, cast a-way, but hid-den in Her
 The Bak-er Wom-an bless-es all, in-clud-ing last and least; by join-ing Her cre-
 6 ris-ing, She watch-es hour by hour. The Bak-er Wom-an, strong and good, cre-
 power-ful hands, a mir-a-cle dis-plays. The small-est bit of yeast be-comes a
 a-tive work, we all be-come the yeast. Our small-est acts of love and peace rise
 11 ates the sa-vory bread; She works to make up man-y loaves, so ev-ery-one is fed.
 feast for ev-ery-one, a-bun-dant good-ness fill-ing earth from dawn to set-ting sun.
 up to fill the earth, trans-form-ing all with Bread of life: "Take, eat, and taste re-birth."

Jan Aldredge-Clanton
 From *Earth Transformed with Music! Inclusive Songs for Worship*
 (Eakin Press, 2015)

Ellacombe
 (CMD)

GREETING

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



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Lord of stories, Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

Psalm 84

A reading from the Psalms.

¹How dear to me is your dwelling,

O LORD of hosts!

²My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁷They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;

give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹Behold our defender, O God;

and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;

no good thing will the LORD withhold

from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts,

happy are they who put their trust in you!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Ye Thankful People, Come (ELW 693)



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn your hands toward the sky; close your eyes or lift your eyes to the altar.

Holy God, inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud.

Pause for prayers.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those around you, honoring the personal boundaries of all.

+ Meal +

CALL TO OFFERING

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth, and the animals that live here with us. This morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to our community. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Dawn's Awakening"

Florence B. Price

OFFERTORY VERSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)



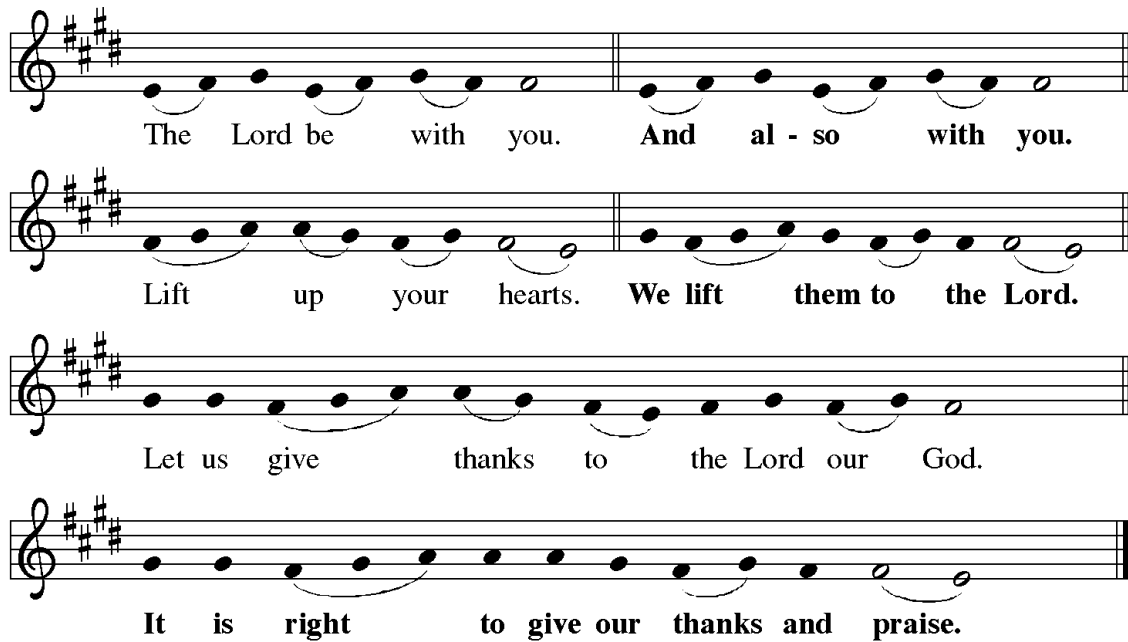
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

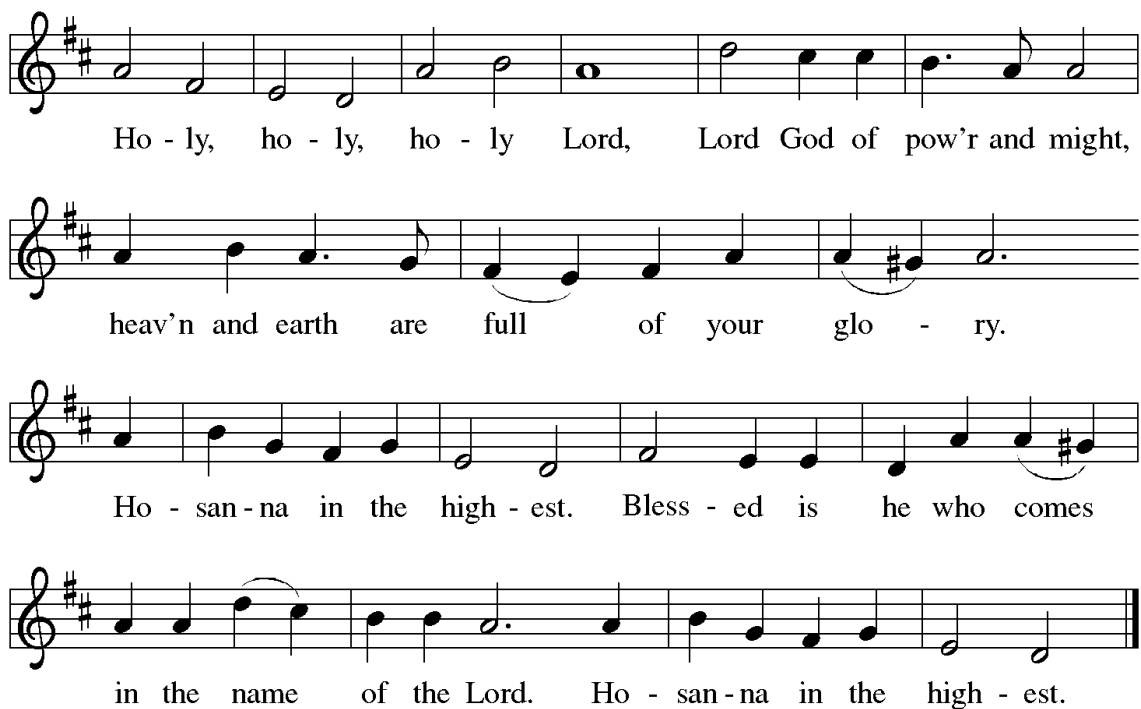
DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother, God our Father 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.**

INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

What We Need Is Here

Join in the singing as soon as you have caught on to the tune.

From “Wild Geese” by Wendell Barry:

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

+ **Sending** +

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

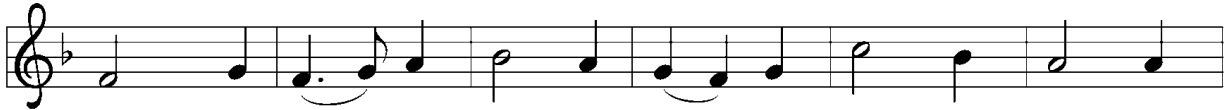
May the Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon you with favor, and bring you peace.

In the name of the Creator, † the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - mighty - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, citizens of the kindom. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“Invokation,” by George Walker

SERVING TODAY

<i>Guest Minister:</i>	The Rev. Kaari Reierson
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Alan Swanson
<i>Minister of Music:</i>	Luke Duroc-Danner
<i>Cantor:</i>	Audrey Neace
<i>Ushers:</i>	Peter Hauser, Finny Maglocchi
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Crist
<i>Camera Operator & Zoom Host:</i>	Michel Hauser
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	The Flachsbart Family

Worship elements are drawn from:

- *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 14.
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- Scripture readings from The Inclusive Bible and the NRSV.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Pastor Reierson

This morning, we welcome Pastor Kaari Reierson as our guest pastor. Pastor Reierson is the Social Responsibility Associate for the ELCA and founder of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*. She will also lead our discussion on the Biblical “Clobber Passages” after worship (see below).

Confronting the Biblical “Clobber Passages”

This morning after worship, from 10:45-11:45 am, The Rev. Kaari Reierson will lead a discussion on passages in the Bible that are often misused to argue that homosexuality is a sin. The Rev. Reierson was involved in writing the ELCA's social statement on Human Sexuality and has been a resource for other congregations on their RIC journeys. Please bring your questions and curiosities as we engage these tricky passages. Non-church members are very welcome to join!

Pastoral Care Needs During Pastor’s Time Away

Pastor Allison will be on vacation February 10-February 20. If you have a pastoral need during her absence, please contact Jan in the church office (847) 251-1730, and she will put you in touch with a local pastor who can help.

You’re a Superhero

The Holy Family kids were extremely blessed for your support with buying Target gift cards for Christmas. If you haven’t seen it yet, stop at the table outside the sanctuary and look at the adorable card the kids have signed. They are grateful for all of you!

Ash Wednesday Worship

Next Wednesday, February 22, we gather at 7 pm in the sanctuary/on Zoom for our Ash Wednesday service, which will include the imposition of ashes. Our theme for Lent this year will be, “Enlivening Faith: Lessons from Queer Theology.” As we journey towards the reaffirmation of our baptisms at Easter, we will discover wisdom from the LGBTQ community that can enrich the faith of all Christians, queer or otherwise.

Our RIC Journey: Questions & Comments Invited

This winter and spring, our congregation is doing the internal reflection and learning necessary to become not just welcoming, but fully affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is called the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process, which our RIC Team (Chris Maglocchi, Chad Johnson, Molly Bolash, and Luke Rasmussen) hopes will culminate in an affirmative vote at our June congregational meeting to become an RIC church. The team would love to talk with you about your questions, comments, or concerns, so please reach out to have a conversation. You may also place anonymous questions in the basket in the gathering area.

NOTES ON TODAY'S COMPOSERS

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was a British composer and conductor born to Anne Hare Martin, an Englishwoman, and Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor, a Krio man from Sierra Leone who studied medicine in London and later became an administrator in West Africa. During his lifetime, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor became so successful that he was called the African Mahler during his American tours. His greatest success was the cantata *Hiawatha's Wedding-Feast*, and it was widely performed during his lifetime - only rivaled in popularity by Handel's *Messiah* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Florence B. Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, she attended the New England Conservatory of Music before moving to Chicago where she became the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Florence Price's compositional output includes four symphonies, four concertos, a wide range of other orchestral works, chamber music, a choral cantata and other choral works, many vocal works and spiritual arrangements, and wide variety of solo keyboard music.

George Walker (1922-2018) was the first African American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for Music, which he won in 1996 for his work *Lilacs*. Trained as a composer, pianist, and organist, George Walker attended Oberlin Conservatory and the Curtis Institute of Music before earning his doctorate from the Eastman School of Music. He studied composition with Rosario Scalero, who also taught Samuel Barber. His most performed piece is his *Lyric for Strings*, but he published over 90 works and was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, and Philadelphia Orchestra among others.