

WORSHIP: TRANSFIGURATION

Sunday, February 19, 2023

9:30 am

PRELUDE

"Festal March"

Florence Price

RING OF THE BELL

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the rising of the sun to its going down,

God calls God's people.

From the mountaintop,

God's light shines out.

Today we remember the light that illuminated Jesus.

We celebrate his mountaintop transfiguration.

Jesus, the light of the world,

Jesus, the light of love,

Jesus, the light of delight,

Jesus, the light that guides our way.

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 (see next page)



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

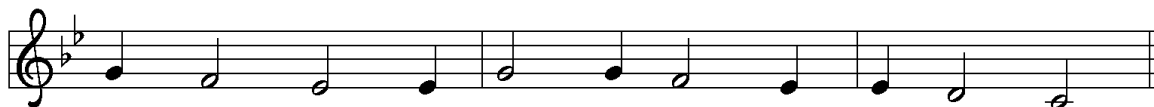
Oh Wondrous Image, Vision Fair (ELW 316)



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
 2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
 3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
 4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
 5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and



glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
 car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
 deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
 this great vi - sion’s mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us



moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
 Ho - ly One says, “This is my be - lov - ed Son.”
 theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
 song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
 by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast



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



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.



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.



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.

Radiant God, you revealed yourself in your child, Jesus, when he was transfigured on the mountain before his disciples. Reveal yourself to us daily, so that we might enlighten others with the good news of your love. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

PSALM

Psalm 41:5-10

A reading from the Psalms.

- ⁵My enemies are saying wicked things about me,
asking when I will die, and my name perish.
- ⁶Even if they come to see me, they speak empty words;
their heart collects false rumors; they go outside and spread them.
- ⁷All my enemies whisper together about me
and devise evil against me.
- ⁸“A deadly thing,” they say, “has fastened on him;
he has taken to his bed and will never get up again.”
- ⁹Even my best friend, whom I trusted, who broke bread with me,
has violently turned against me.
- ¹⁰But you, O LORD, be merciful to me and raise me up,
and I shall repay them.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said. “This will never happen to you!” ²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan! You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You’re setting your mind not on the things of God, but of mortals.” ²⁴ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps. ²⁵ “If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. ²⁶ What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self? ²⁷ “The Promised One will come in the glory of God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. ²⁸ The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One’s reign.”

^{17:1} Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them.

² And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured—his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light. ³ Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. ⁴ Then Peter said, “Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” ⁵ Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, “This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests. Listen to him!” ⁶ When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. ⁷ Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, “Get up! Don’t be afraid.” ⁸ When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

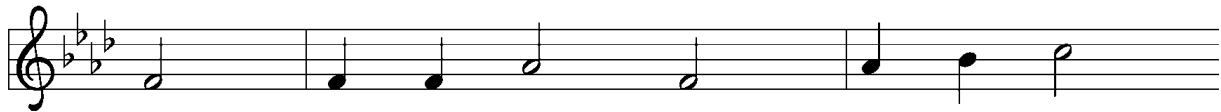
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

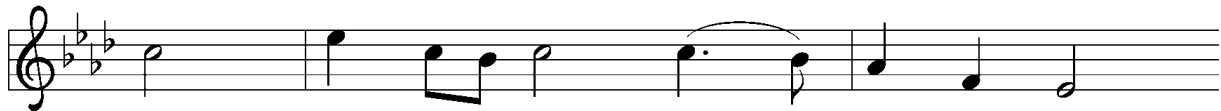
Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said (ELW 667)



1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,



"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;



for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848

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.

God, we thank you that you do not dwell on the mountaintop
 but walk among your people:
 sometimes dazzling white,
 sometimes incognito grey,
 sometimes drawing attention,
 sometimes fading into the background.

You point to a great tradition of priests and prophets
but also present a new vision for all who walk by faith today.

May we be so altered by journeying with you
that we change lives and communities for good.

May we feed the hungry, bind the broken hearted,
set prisoners free, heal the sick, find shelter for the homeless,
and share what we have with the poor.

May we be changed in and by our service.
And, as though we had been on the mountaintop,
may we find renewed vigor to take up our cross and journey on with you,
changing the landscape through which we travel.

May we be led from lofty to lowly, from the past to the present,
and may we hear echoes of our baptismal calling
to listen and serve you now.

Pause for silent prayers.

We pray for your guidance, O Lord, and we give thanks for your unshakeable love.
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

“Non Nobis Domine”

Victor C. Johnson

Non nobis, Domine, sed nomini tuo da gloriam.
Not unto us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory.

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.

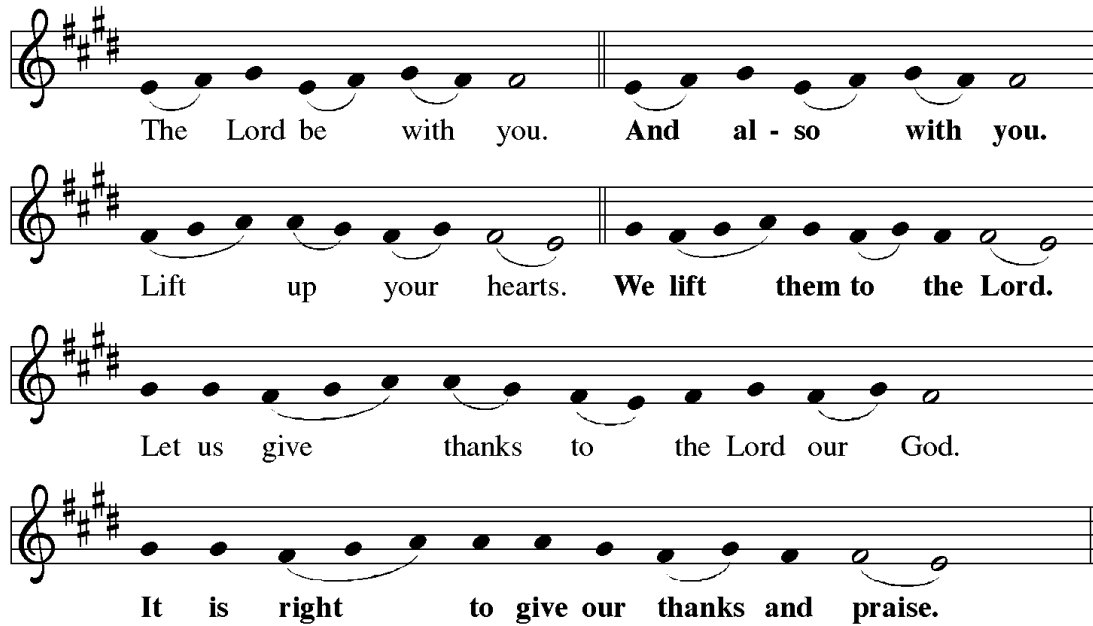
Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.**

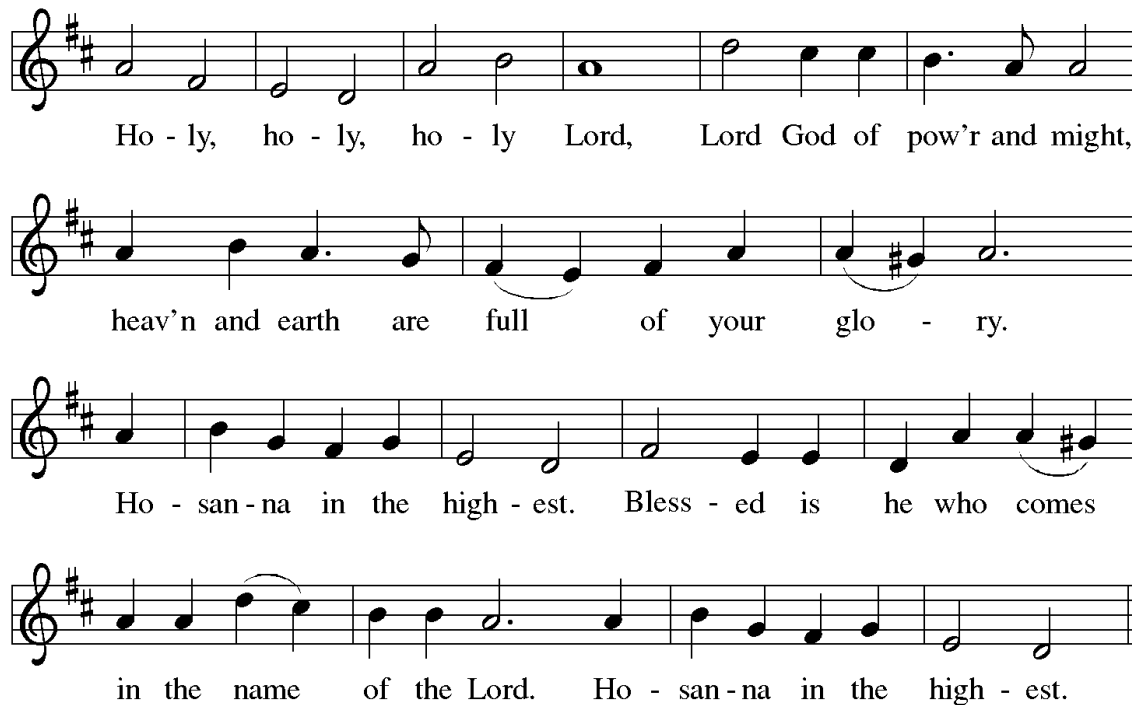
DIALOGUE



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

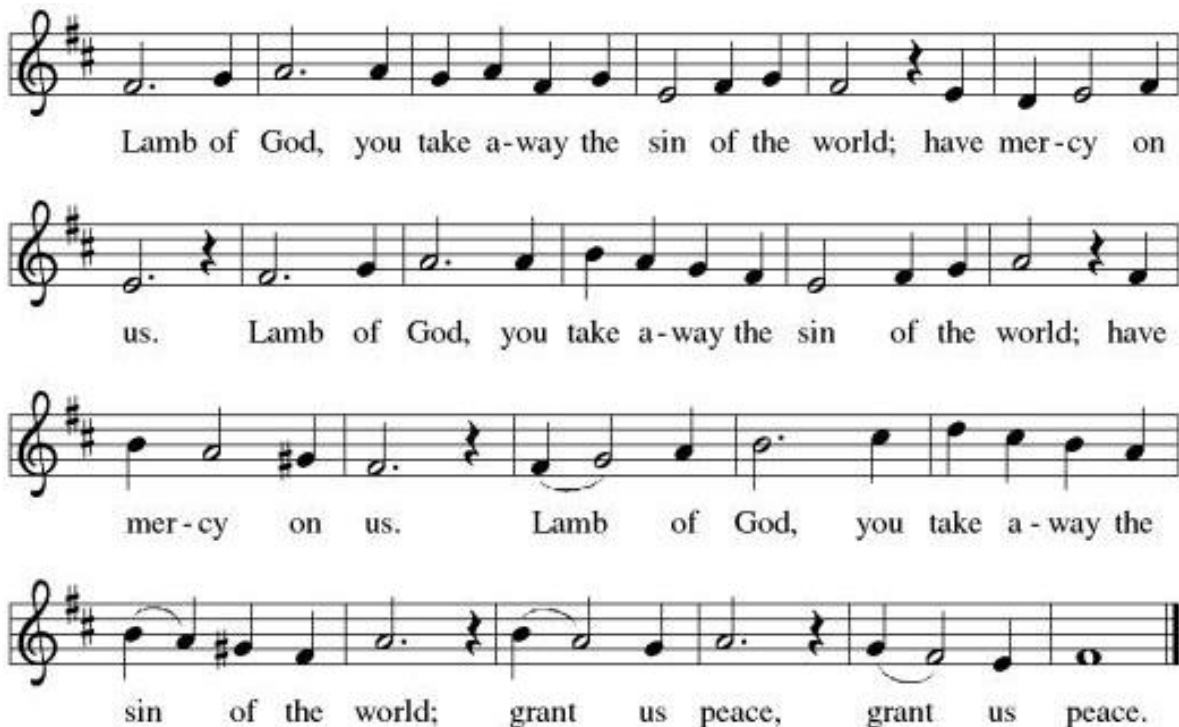
**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, 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

“Take up your cross,” the Lord has said.

We take up our crosses now.

As disciples of Christ, we are challenged to follow.

We follow the living Christ now.

We gain our lives by losing them in service.

We go out to serve now.

In the name of the Creator, † the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you on the way.

Amen.



1 Je - sus on the moun - tain peak stands a - lone in
 2 Trem - bling at his feet we saw Mo - ses and E -
 3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came, God pro - claim - ing
 4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son! Law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; let us, if we dare to speak,
 li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law
 in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!
 sing be - fore him, first and last and on - ly One.



join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.
 shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:
 Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der:
 All cre - a - tion shall a - dore him!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: BETHOLD, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve one another.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia”

Eurydice V. Osterman

SERVING TODAY

<i>Guest Minister:</i>	The Rev. Erik Christensen
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Jason Shutters
<i>Minister of Music:</i>	Luke Duroc-Danner
<i>Cantors:</i>	Audrey Neace Elizabeth Anne Reeves
<i>Minister of the Word:</i>	Mylene Pollock
<i>Usher:</i>	Tom Morrison
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Susan Crist
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Jan Wendel

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 Christensen

This morning, we welcome Pastor Erik Christensen as our guest pastor. Pastor Christensen is Pastor to the Community and Director of Strategic Initiatives at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.

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.

Ash Wednesday Worship

This 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.

Wednesday Dinner Church during Lent

On each of the five Wednesdays in March, we will gather at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for Dinner Church. The dinner church service will include singing, prayer, scripture, soup supper, and discussion about the book, *Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know about Life and Love and How it Can Revitalize Christianity*, by Elizabeth Edman. All are welcome to join the conversation whether or not you have read the book! Books will be available for pick-up in the church office soon.

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

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.

Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978) is a prolific arranger and composer with over 350 varied works in print. A graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington, he is also the Choral Editor for Sing!, the education publishing division of the Choristers Guild, and he has served since 2007 as the Minister of Worship and Arts at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

Eurydice V. Osterman (b. 1950) is a Fulbright scholar, author, and composer. She attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan (B.M., M.M.) and then the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa (DMA in Composition) as the first woman and first African American to graduate with this degree. Dr. Osterman was active as an organist as well as a professor of music theory and composition at Oakwood University before moving to Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica.