



September 15, 2024
Sunday Gathering

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-PRELUDE-

"He" – Mullan/Richards
Brenda Gardiner

-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

LET'S WALK TOGETHER FOR A WHILE
AND ASK WHERE WE BEGIN
TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE LOVE CAN GROW
AND HOPE CAN ENTER IN,
TO BE THE HANDS OF HEALING
AND TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF PEACE,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-WELCOME-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

LET'S TALK TOGETHER OF A TIME
WHEN WE WILL SHARE A FEAST,
WHERE PRIDE AND POWER KNEEL TO SERVE
THE LONELY AND THE LEAST,
AND JOY WILL SET THE TABLE
AS WE JOIN OUR HANDS TO PRAY,

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

We come seeking Christ our King
AND YOU GIVE US A POOR TRAVELING PREACHER.

We come seeking a Messiah Warrior –
one who will make us proud and strong in the face of our enemies!
YET YOU GIVE US A HOMELESS MAN,
WHO PRAYS "FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE"
AND "LOVE YOUR ENEMIES."

We come looking for a miracle man,
one who will heal all our economic woes and cast out, bail out, our demons of debt.
BUT YOU SHOW US A SIMPLE CARPENTER'S BOY WHO ASKS US
TO WALK THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE AND GIVE TO THE POOR.

We come longing for the truth we want to hear.
AND YOU BURN OUR EARS WITH TALK OF JUSTICE AND MERCY.

We come seeking what we want,
AND YOU IN GRACE AND LOVE GIVE US WHAT WE NEED!

-OPENING PRAYER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The Summons"

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME
IF I BUT CALL YOUR NAME?
WILL YOU GO WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW
AND NEVER BE THE SAME?
WILL YOU LET MY LOVE BE SHOWN?
WILL YOU LET MY NAME BE KNOWN?
WILL YOU LET MY LIFE BE GROWN IN YOU,
AND YOU IN ME?

WILL YOU LET THE BLINDED SEE
IF I BUT CALL YOUR NAME?
WILL YOU SET THE PRISONERS FREE
AND NEVER BE THE SAME?
WILL YOU KISS THE LEPER CLEAN,
AND DO SUCH AS THIS UNSEEN?
AND ADMIT TO WHAT I MEAN IN YOU,
AND YOU IN ME?

WILL YOU LOVE THE "YOU" YOU HIDE
IF I BUT CALL YOUR NAME?
WILL YOU QUELL THE FEAR INSIDE
AND NEVER BE THE SAME?
WILL YOU USE THE FAITH YOU'VE FOUND
TO RESHAPE THE WORLD AROUND
THROUGH MY SIGHT AND TOUCH AND SOUND IN YOU,
AND YOU IN ME?

LORD, YOUR SUMMONS ECHOES TRUE
WHEN YOU BUT CALL MY NAME.
LET ME TURN AND FOLLOW YOU
AND NEVER BE THE SAME.
IN YOUR COMPANY I'LL GO,
WHERE YOUR LOVE AND FOOTSTEPS SHOW,
THUS I'LL MOVE AND LIVE AND GROW IN YOU,
AND YOU IN ME.

-SCRIPTURE-

Mark 8: 27-34 (CEV)

Jesus and his disciples went to the villages near the town of Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "What do people say about me?" The disciples answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist or maybe Elijah. Others say you are one of the prophets." Then Jesus asked, "But

who do you say I am?" "You are the Messiah!" Peter replied. Jesus warned the disciples not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him. He said, "The nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. He will be rejected and killed, but three days later he will rise to life." Then Jesus explained clearly what he meant. Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that. But when Jesus turned and saw the disciples, he corrected Peter. He said to him, "Satan, get away from me! You are thinking like everyone else and not like God."

Jesus then told the crowd and the disciples to come closer, and he said: If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me and for the good news, you will save it. What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself? What could you give to get back your soul? Don't be ashamed of me and my message among these unfaithful and sinful people! If you are, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in the glory of [God] with the holy angels.

-THE MESSAGE-

"Get Behind Me and Follow..."

Pam Lee-Miller

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"As We Gather at Your Table"

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE,
AS WE LISTEN TO YOUR WORD,
HELP US KNOW, O GOD, YOUR PRESENCE;
LET OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE STIRRED.
NOURISH US WITH SACRED STORY
TILL WE CLAIM IT AS YOUR OWN;
TEACH US THROUGH THIS HOLY BANQUET
HOW TO MAKE LOVE'S VICTORY KNOWN.

GRACIOUS SPIRIT, HELP US SUMMON
OTHER GUESTS TO SHARE THE FEAST
WHERE TRIUMPHANT LOVE WILL WELCOME
THOSE WHO HAD BEEN LAST AND LEAST.
THERE NO MORE WILL ENVY BIND US
NOR WILL PRIDE OUR PEACE DESTROY,
AS WE JOIN WITH THOSE AROUND US
TO PARTAKE IN HEAVEN'S JOY.

-SHARING AROUND THE TABLE-

-COMMUNION-

"It Is Well With My Soul" - arr. E. Carlson

-OFFERING-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS,
I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS,
I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS,
NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING BACK.

THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME,
THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME,
THE WORLD BEHIND ME, THE CROSS BEFORE ME,
NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING BACK.

THOUGH NONE GO WITH ME, I STILL WILL FOLLOW,
THOUGH NONE GO WITH ME, I STILL WILL FOLLOW,
THOUGH NONE GO WITH ME, I STILL WILL FOLLOW,
NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING BACK.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

WILL YOU DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS?
WILL YOU DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS?
WILL YOU DECIDE TO FOLLOW JESUS?
NO TURNING BACK, NO TURNING BACK.