



October 27, 2024
Sunday Gathering

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-PRELUDE-

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" – arr. S. Wilson
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-

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL,
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL.
LET US JOIN OUR HEARTS AS ONE.
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL.

CAST ASIDE YOUR DOUBTS AND FEARS,
CAST ASIDE YOUR DOUBTS AND FEARS.
PEACE AND LOVE, FREELY OFFERED HERE;
CAST ASIDE YOUR DOUBTS AND FEARS.

-WELCOME-

-GREETING EACH OTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL,
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL.
LET US JOIN OUR HEARTS AS ONE.
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL.

WE'RE ACCEPTED AS WE ARE,
WE'RE ACCEPTED AS WE ARE.
THROUGH LOVE'S POW'R WE'RE RECONCILED.
WE'RE ACCEPTED AS WE ARE.

-CALL TO WORSHIP-

IF YOU ARE BY SIBLING, THEN THIS FAMILY IS IN TROUBLE.
NO KIDDING! WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU THINKING?
WHAT IF YOU REALLY HATE ME?
WHAT IF WE NEVER FIND COMMON GROUND?
I CANNOT IMAGINE GETTING BEYOND THIS DIVIDE.
I'M NOT SURE I AM WILLING TO WORK TO REPAIR ALL OF THIS.

Wait.

BREATHE.

Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

BREATHE AGAIN.

We are not alone.

CHRIST IS WITH US.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

WE WILL TEAR DOWN THE WALLS!
WE WILL TEAR DOWN EVERY WALL!
LOVE HAS CALLED US ONE AND ALL.
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALLS.

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALLS.

-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Gather Us In"

HERE IN THIS PLACE A NEW LIGHT IS STREAMING,
NOW IS THE DARKNESS VANISHED AWAY,
SEE IN THIS SPACE OUR FEARS AND OUR DREAMINGS,
BROUGHT HERE TO YOU IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DAY.

GATHER US IN, THE LOST AND FORSAKEN,
GATHER US IN, THE BLIND AND THE LAME;
CALL TO US NOW, AND WE SHALL AWAKEN,
WE SHALL ARISE AT THE SOUND OF YOUR NAME.

WE ARE THE YOUNG, OUR LIVES ARE A MYST'RY,
WE ARE THE OLD WHO YEARN FOR YOUR FACE,
WE HAVE BEEN SUNG THROUGHOUT ALL OF HIST'RY,
CALLED TO BE LIGHT TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.

GATHER US IN THE RICH AND THE HAUGHTY,
GATHER US IN, THE PROUD AND THE STRONG;
GIVE US A HEART SO MEEK AND SO LOWLY,
GIVE US THE COURAGE TO ENTER THE SONG.

HERE WE WILL TAKE THE WINE AND THE WATER,
HERE WE WILL TAKE THE BREAD OF NEW BIRTH,
HERE YOU SHALL CALL YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS,
CALL US ANEW TO BE SALT OF THE EARTH.

GIVE US TO DRINK THE WINE OF COMPASSION,
GIVE US TO EAT THE BREAD THAT IS YOU;
NOURISH US WELL, AND TEACH US TO FASHION
LIVES THAT ARE HOLY AND HEARTS THAT ARE TRUE.

NOT IN THE DARK OF BUILDINGS CONFINING,
NOT IN SOME HEAVEN, LIGHT YEARS AWAY,
BUT HERE IN THIS PLACE THE NEW LIGHT IS SHINING,

GATHER US IN AND HOLD US FOREVER,
GATHER US IN AND MAKE US YOUR OWN;
GATHER US IN, ALL PEOPLES TOGETHER,
FIRE OF LOVE IN OUR FLESH AND OUR BONE.

-SCRIPTURE-

1 Corinthians 12: 1-31 (MSG)

What I want to talk about now is the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable. Remember how you were when you didn't know God, led from one phony god to another, never knowing what you were doing, just doing it because everybody else did it? It's different in this life. God wants us to use our intelligence, to seek to understand as well as we can. For instance, by using your heads, you know perfectly well that the Spirit of God would never prompt anyone to say "Jesus be damned!" Nor would anyone be inclined to say "Jesus is Master!" without the insight of the Holy Spirit.

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to

do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

*wise counsel
clear understanding
simple trust
healing the sick
miraculous acts
proclamation
distinguishing between spirits
tongues
interpretation of tongues.*

All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. [God] decides who gets what, and when.

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this.

-THE MESSAGE-

"We Are the Body - That's Who We Are"

Pam Lee-Miller

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

COME AND FIND THE QUIET CENTER
IN THE CROWDED LIFE WE LEAD.
FIND THE ROOM FOR HOPE TO ENTER,
FIND THE FRAME WHERE WE ARE FREED:
CLEAR THE CHAOS AND THE CLUTTER
CLEAR OUR EYES THAT WE CAN SEE
ALL THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER,
BE AT PEACE AND SIMPLY BE.

-SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS-

-COMMUNAL PRAYER-

Creator God,
our collective hearts are filled with anxiety and fear.
and sometimes, God, this makes us feel alone.
remind us that you are with us.

DRAW US CLOSE,
QUIET OUR MINDS,
AND CALM OUR HEARTS.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Compassionate God,
we cannot understand all the suffering in the world.
we commit our hearts to you,
and we will listen for your voice.

DRAW US CLOSE,
QUIET OUR MINDS,
AND CALM OUR HEARTS.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Generous God,
give us the courage to persistently act in love.
teach us to be your gentle hands
which work for justice and good.

DRAW US CLOSE,
QUIET OUR MINDS,
AND CALM OUR HEARTS.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Loving Creator,
in times of turmoil, help us see that love
and acceptance of others is our path forward.

DRAW US CLOSE,
QUIET OUR MINDS,
AND CALM OUR HEARTS.

WE BELIEVE; HELP OUR UNBELIEF.

Help us to trust in love.
one day at a time.
one breath at a time.

WE ASK ALL THESE THINGS IN FAITH.
AMEN.

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The Open Table"

COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE.
GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR.
KNOWN BY NAME HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

CIRCLE 'ROUND, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER.
SHARE YOUR JOYS, AND BRING YOUR TEARS.
STRENGTH AND HOPE FOUND AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE; LOVE IS CREATING
SOMETHING NEW, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
WE'RE CHILDREN OF GOD, HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

-COMMUNION-

"The Prayer" - arr. S. Wilson

-OFFERING-

-THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE-

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O For a World"

O FOR A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE
RESPECTS EACH OTHER'S WAYS,
WHERE LOVE IS LIVED AND ALL IS DONE
WITH JUSTICE AND WITH PRAISE.

O FOR A WORLD WHERE GOODS ARE SHARED
AND MISERY RELIEVED,
WHERE TRUTH IS SPOKEN, CHILDREN SPARED,
EQUALITY ACHIEVED.

WE WELCOME ONE WORLD FAMILY
AND STRUGGLE WITH EACH CHOICE
THAT OPENS US TO UNITY
AND GIVES OUR VISION VOICE.

THE POOR ARE RICH, THE WEAK ARE STRONG,
THE FOOLISH ONES ARE WISE.
TELL ALL WHO MOURN; OUTCASTS BELONG,
WHO PERISHES WILL RISE.

O FOR A WORLD PREPARING FOR
GOD'S GLORIOUS REIGN OF PEACE,
WHERE TIME AND TEARS WILL BE NO MORE,
AND ALL BUT LOVE WILL CEASE.

-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Love Has Broken Down the Wall"

WE WILL TEAR DOWN THE WALLS!
WE WILL TEAR DOWN EVERY WALL!
LOVE HAS CALLED US ONE AND ALL.
LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALLS.

LOVE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALLS.