

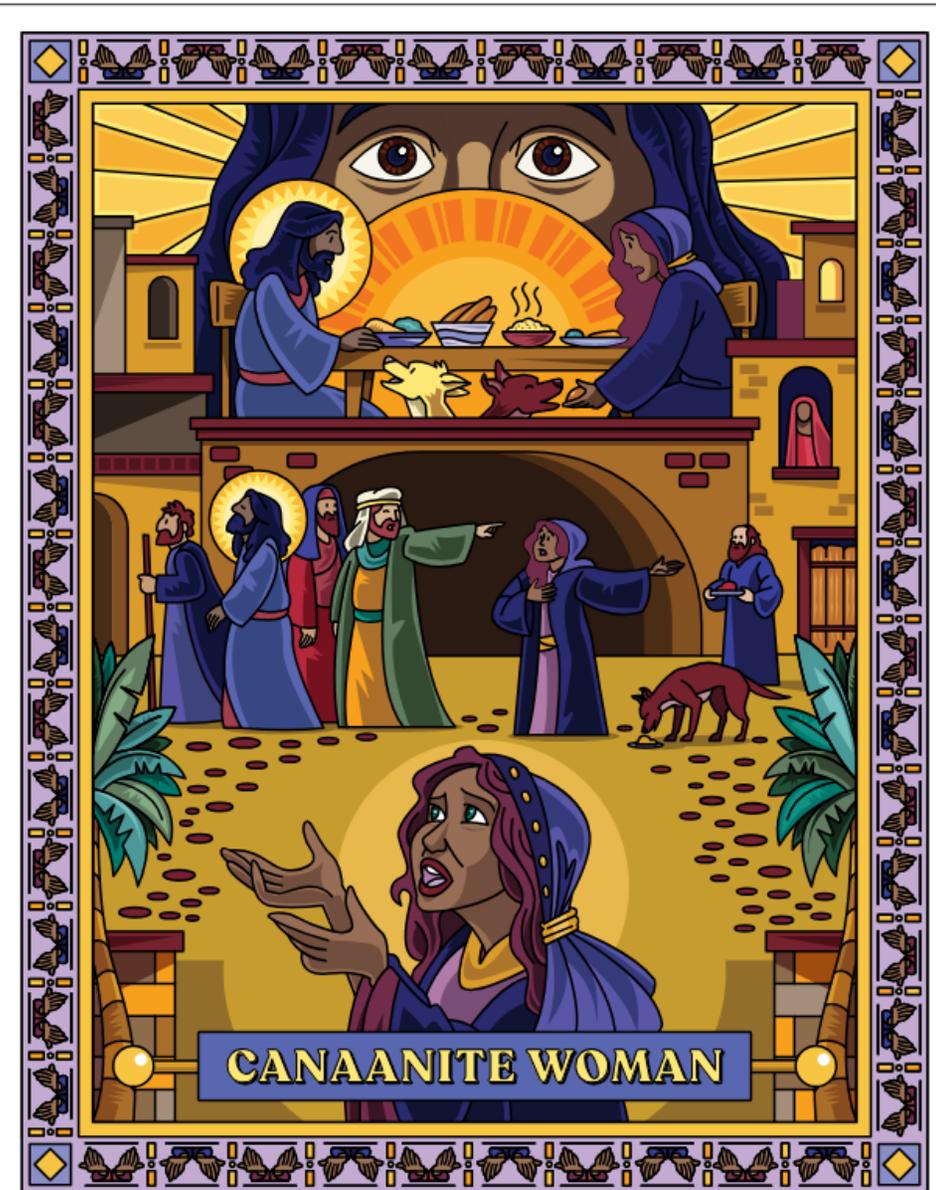
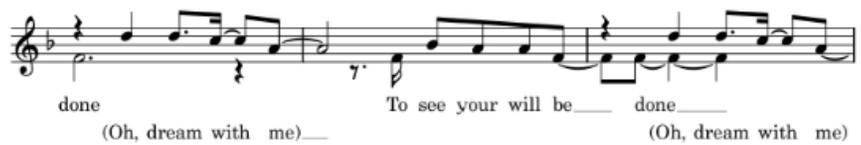
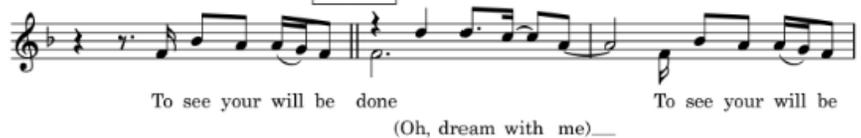
The Work of Imagination

Words and Music by
ANDREA HAMILTON, REBEKAH LOWE,
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Chorus



Outro



CANAANITE WOMAN

**MOMENT OF SILENCE
ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved in Christ, God knows how it feels to be frustrated with other people. Yet, God promises the Spirit to replenish our reserves of patience and love when it feels like we cannot spare one more kind thought. Receive these gifts of grace. Receive God’s pardon for your sins, and be at peace.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God who breathes meaning and inspiration into
our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of re-
demption, liberation, and love, may these words
help us imagine the world you intended. May we
receive the challenge to join you in this holy
work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Je-
sus in love and justice. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE MATTHEW 15:21-28

SERMON “HOLY CONFRONTATION”

**MOMENT FOR MISSION~ OGHS
(ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING)**



General Giving

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHORAL INTROIT #195 “THE OLD RUGGED CROSS”
(VERSES 1-2)**

RESPONSIVE WELCOME STATEMENT

At St. John’s United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

We live and work amid God’s love!

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ’s love to all.

We work in God’s name to tear down walls and build community,

**to walk with each other through all of life’s circum-
stances,**

to provide for those in need,

**to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,
and to uplift the brokenhearted.**

Where we fail, we ask for God’s forgiveness.

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to chal-
lenge us to do better.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life’s
journey, you are welcome here!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come into God’s presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

Come into God’s abundance, you of great faith, and you who grasp at crumbs; you who resist, and you who persist.

In Christ, we gather and are transformed.

Come into God’s presence, singing for joy and for jus-
tice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful
acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, you listen to the cries of all our children and are quick to respond with mercy. As Jesus' heart was opened by the pleading of a neighbor in need, open our hearts to the sighs and longings of our world. Teach us to be courageous in faith, speaking up for justice and persisting in hope that makes all things new. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN #397 "THANK OUR GOD FOR SISTERS, BROTHERS" (TUNE: HOLY MANNA)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

We believe in the dignity of human beings as image bearers and dearly beloved children of God. We believe all people carry God-given dignity—across every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, accent, documentation status, refugee status, appearance, ability, illness, relationship status, social media following, family history, criminal background, education, geographical location, clothing, wealth or poverty, religion, hobbies, possessions, parents or non-parents, mental health, height, weight, hairstyle, tattoos, piercings, talents, or weaknesses. We believe human dignity is inescapable and irrevocable.

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One, these prayers carry our gratitude. So much beauty and care sustains us. We give thanks for this congregation, for songs and stories and friends, for space at the table.

Holy One, hear our prayer of thanksgiving. May our gratitude make us gentle and generous with ourselves, with each other, and with all.

These prayers carry our frustration. So much desperate need surrounds us. We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. We lament the systems that fail us. We rail against the denial of dignity.

Holy One, hear our prayer born of struggle. May our frustration make us fierce advocates for ourselves, for each other, and for all.

These prayers carry our hope. So much is possible when we remember the healing, transforming, renewing power of your love.

In this silence, hear the prayers we raise to you:

(TIME FOR SILENCE)

Holy One, hear the prayer of our hearts. May our hope give us courage and care to embody your love for all the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN "IMAGINE" (BACK OF BULLETIN)

CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows our temptation to be cruel to one another, and yet imagines for us a life of mutual blessings. God of mercy and compassion, we confess we have not always treated our neighbors, friends, or even family members with dignity.

We have used dehumanizing language or stereotypes. We have been critical when we should have been encouraging. We have told lies when we should have been honest with hard truths. We have excluded people when we should have widened the invitation. Forgive us for the ways that we have failed our neighbors, friends, and family with unkind words. Amen.