

# Worship at Nordland

November 22, 2020

Welcome

Opening Litany

Creator, Protector of the lowly  
Defender of the weak:  
You do not despise the needy;  
You do not cast out those without status.  
Your eye is always on the underdog,  
And you care for those on the margins.

You rescued the lowly servant girl Hagar  
Who had no power, no authority to choose a life for herself.  
She served Abraham to the utmost, even bearing him a child.  
Abraham cast her out; but you, God, rescued her.  
You gave her water in the desert and preserved her life.  
Her child, Ishmael, grew into a father of nations.

Your ways are not our ways: social status, family line, material wealth, race, gender.  
The world categorizes and assigns value to people according to these things,  
But you, O God, see beyond, to the inner person.

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
For I am poor and needy.  
Preserve my life. Save me.  
For you are the God who hears me.  
You are the God who sees me.  
You are my God.  
Amen.

Hymn

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (verses 1,2)*

Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.

Scripture Reading

*Genesis 16:5-11,13*

*Reader: Steve Peterson*

Sarah said to Abraham, 'May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!' But Abraham said to Sarah, 'Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please.' Then Sarah dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her. The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And the angel said, 'Hagar, slave-girl of Sarah, where have you come from and where are you going?' She said, 'I am running

away from my mistress Sarah.' The angel of the Lord said to her, 'I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.' And the angel of the Lord said to her, 'Now you have conceived and you shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael (*meaning God hears*), for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. So she named the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are El-roi' (*the God who sees*).

Message

*Mary Wilkens*

Hymn

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (verse 3,4)*

As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

Prayers / Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Hymn

*Jesus Shall Reign*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace, and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*You are a beloved child of God, deserving of love and respect,  
and God is using you to care for the world.*

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*You are invited to a brief Holy Communion service which will be live-streamed at 11:30 a.m.  
this morning - both on Nordland's Facebook page and Youtube channel.  
Bring a candle, bread, and grape juice or wine.*