

Theme: Reframing our Resistance: Lament, Foundation, Joy, and Courage

Announcements

Welcome

We gather in the name of God, Christ, and Holy Spirit, who strengthens us as we resist efforts to erase or marginalize LGBTQIA+ people. We gather to lament, re-establish our foundation in Jesus, celebrate the joy of God's love and our life together, and find the courage to speak and act in support of all of God's beloveds.

We gather to honor God, and all creation—human, animal, plant, water, wind, earth, and sky—that belong to God.

Prayer for the Day

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Help us move on from lament to build a foundation out of your loving kindness and justice. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: 532 Gather Us In

Confession

God of the divine feminine,

help us to resist stereotypical expectations that limit or harm our siblings in Christ. The smallness, the daintiness, the gentle and submissive tendencies, the beauty standards, the trendiness, the fashion conscientiousness, the norms of cooking and cleaning and care taking. The expectations of lady-like demeanor.

A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as Female.

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Help us to appreciate and embrace the ways in which we embody intuitiveness, compassion, wisdom, acceptance, forgiveness, collaboration, and reflectiveness.

God of the divine masculine,

help us to resist stereotypical expectations that limit or harm our siblings in Christ. The greatness, the supremacy, the righteous anger, the norms of being the sole protector and key provider. The expectations of becoming the one and only.

A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as Male.

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Help us to appreciate and embrace the ways in which we embody logic, assertiveness, discipline, boundaries, confidence, and objectivity.

God of the divine non-binary,

help us shed the notion of either/or. The archetypes and the paradigms that divide. The expectations that I must fit into a single category.

A time of silence to name the ways we have harmed those who identify as non-binary or queer.

Instead, equip us with all we see in you.

Remind us of the ways in which we embody expansiveness, dwell faithfully in the liminal spaces between certainty and possibility, and practice radical inclusiveness. Help us to trust these qualities, to know them as holy, sacred, and worthy, and to live boldly, knowing that your asymmetrical love is always and everywhere unconditional.

Hear this, God's beloved children! God knows and loves all of us, and catches us when we stumble and fail to walk the good road with Jesus. We are a loved and forgiven people! May we continue to walk in joy as we love and forgive each other!

And all God's beloveds say . . . **Amen!**

Listening to the Word

Genesis 16: 1-16

Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to have children. Since she owned an enslaved Egyptian woman named Hagar, Sarai said to Abram, "God has kept me from giving birth, so go to my slave. Maybe she will provide me with children." Abram did just as Sarai said. After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took her enslaved Egyptian woman named Hagar and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when she realized that she was pregnant, she no longer respected her mistress. Sarai said to Abram, "This harassment is your fault. I allowed you to sleep with my servant, but when she realized she was pregnant, I lost her respect. Let the Lord decide who is right, you or me."

Abram said to Sarai, "Since she's your slave, do whatever you wish to her."

So Sarai treated her harshly, and she ran away from Sarai.

God found Hagar at a spring in the desert, the spring on the road to Shur, and said, "Hagar! Sarai's slave! Where did you come from and where are you going?"

She said, "From Sarai my mistress. I'm running away."

God said to her, "Go back to your mistress. Put up with her harsh treatment of you." God also said to her, "I will give you many children, so many they can't be counted!"

God said to her, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You will name him Ishmael because the Lord has heard about your harsh treatment. He will be a wild mule of a man; he will fight everyone, and they will fight him. He will live at odds with all his relatives."

Hagar named the God who spoke to her, El Roi because she said, "Can I still see after they saw me?" Therefore, that well is called Beer-lahai-roi; it's the well between Kadesh and Bered. Hagar gave birth to a son for Abram, and Abram named him Ishmael.

Genesis 21:8-21

Isaac grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. So she said to Abraham, "Send this slave away with her son! This slave's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

This upset Abraham terribly because Ishmael was his son. God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your enslaved woman. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. But through Hagar's son I will make a great nation too, because he is also your descendant." Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away.

She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept.

God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because through him I will make a great nation." Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

God's Word invites us into life

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 69

Save me, O God, because the waters have reached my neck!

I have sunk into deep mud. My feet can't touch the bottom!

I have entered deep water; the flood has swept me up.

I am tired of crying. My throat is hoarse.

My eyes are exhausted with waiting for my God.

More numerous than the hairs on my head are those who hate me for no reason.

My treacherous enemies, those who would destroy me, are countless.

Must I now give back what I didn't steal in the first place?

God, you know my foolishness; my wrongdoings aren't hidden from you.

Lord God of heavenly forces!—don't let those who hope in you be put to shame because of me.

God of Israel!—don't let those who seek you be disgraced because of me.

Because passion for your house has consumed me, the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me! I wept while I fasted—even for that I was insulted.

When I wore funeral clothes, people made fun of me.

Those who sit at the city gate muttered things about me; drunkards made up rude songs.

But me? My prayer reaches you, O God, at just the right time. God, in your great and faithful love, answer me with your certain salvation!

Save me from the mud! Don't let me drown!

Let me be saved from those who hate me and from these watery depths!

Don't let me be swept away by the floodwaters! Don't let the abyss swallow me up!

Don't let the pit close its mouth over me!

Answer me, O God, for your faithful love is good! Turn to me in your great compassion!

Don't hide your face from me, your servant, because I'm in deep trouble.

Answer me quickly! Come close to me! Redeem me!

Save me because of my enemies!

The Gospel according to Matthew 12:1-14

Glory to you, O Christ!

At that time Jesus went through the wheat fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry so they were picking heads of wheat and eating them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are breaking the Sabbath law."

But he said to them, "Haven't you read what David did when he and those with him were hungry? He went into God's house and broke the law by eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests were allowed to eat. Or haven't you read in the Law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple treat the Sabbath as any other day and are still innocent? But I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what this means, I want mercy and not sacrifice, you wouldn't have condemned the innocent. The Human One is Lord of the Sabbath."

Jesus left that place and went into their synagogue. A man with a withered hand was there. Wanting to bring charges against Jesus, they asked, "Does the Law allow a person to heal on the Sabbath?"

Jesus replied, "Who among you has a sheep that falls into a pit on the Sabbath and will not take hold of it and pull it out? How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! So the Law allows a person to do what is good on the Sabbath." Then Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did and it was made healthy, just like the other one. The Pharisees went out and met in order to find a way to destroy Jesus.

The Gospel of our faith

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon: Be Seen, Be Heard, Rev. Jae Bates

Hymn of the Day: #720, We Are Called

Statement of Faith

Let us proclaim our faith to each other and to the world:

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gracious Lord, Let streams of your living justice flow down upon the earth,

Let us offer the poor worth, feed the hands of the hungry whose arms are outstretched, give shelter to those who find themselves without a place to call home, surround our siblings who are within the LGBTQIA+ community with your loving acceptance and grace.

O God of compassion . . . **Receive our offering**

Dear Comforting Lord, Let the streams of your living justice flow down upon the earth. Lift the mourner, the broken in spirit, those who grieve from abuse, for those who long for nothing more than to laugh again, when tears have filled their eyes. For our siblings who experience oppression and exclusion in our society.

O God of compassion . . . **Receive our offering**

God of Peace, let streams of your living justice flow down upon the earth, for healing of the world, our nation and others, our communities, our church, and our political leaders. Grant us grace to mend but not stay still. Sustain our courage and help us to abandon vengeance and hatred, lifting us up to love all our neighbors as ourselves.

O God of compassion . . . **Receive our offering**

God of love, shown to us in the life of Jesus Christ, let your streams of living justice flow down upon the earth, stir in us our faith and courage in equal measure so we may serve others, to walk beside our siblings instead

of away, to embrace all of humanity, and creation as a gift from you. Create in us a clean heart.

O God of compassion . . . **Receive our offering**

God of all, we offer to you these prayers and those we hold in our hearts, continue to fill us with the hope and the understanding that we have been made in your image, yet weaving our diversity into one beautiful tapestry that we respect and uplift.

Amen

Sharing the Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

Let us greet one another with a sign of this spirit-filled peace.

Offering and Offering Prayer

Let us pray: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and your creation provides us with an abundance of what we need. May our gifts of all kinds and our labor contribute to the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

God is here!

Immanuel is with us!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to our God!

Let us give thanks to our God, the One who sees us!

It is right to give our thanks and praise to God!

Thanksgiving at the table.

Lord's Prayer for Pride Worship

Let us pray together, using words inspired by Jesus . . .

**Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,
The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.
May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.**

Along with ourselves, grant that God's beloveds who have been marginalized might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed so many of your children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged unique expressions of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear as we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever.

Amen.

Distribution of bread and wine -

Communion Hymn: #465 As the Grains of Wheat

Prayer After Communion

God of all, you gathered us into one through this holy meal. Grant that we might go out into the world filled with your grace and love so that we ourselves might serve others. In your many names we pray, Amen.

Sending

Blessing

May the Creator of all embolden us to be fiercely and authentically human. May the Holy Protector guide us as we continue to discover the fullness of who we are. And may the Spirit of Truth and Wisdom guide us to seek justice for all.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: #543. Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Dismissal

Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors.

Thanks be to God!