

Welcome and Announcements: May 9, 2021

“Delivered Out of Empire” by Walter Brueggemann book discussion today (Sunday) at 11 a.m.
This week, chapter 4, “The Terminus of Empire” led by Ginger Young.

Zoom info for Faith Formation: Meeting ID: 873 0172 3949 Passcode: 801633

GATHEIRNG AROUND GOD’S WORD

Prelude: * *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

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Opening Prayer: — written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his **Lectionary Liturgies** blog.

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17)

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.
We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.
We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.
young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched,
lift the new, new songs of faith.

Prayer of the Day

(inspired by Psalm 98)

You raise your hand
and gently begin
the concerto of creation:
birds carry the melody
while stars keep the beat;
mountains dance in merriment
and little children clap
their hands with joy.
Love's Composer,
our new songs are lifted to you.

The old, old song
is made new in our hearts:
Christ is Risen!
Sing Alleluia!
You invite us to sing to a world
deafened by despair

and haunted by the tunes of fear.
Lord of the Dance,
our new songs are lifted to you.

Believing we cannot
carry a tune,
we hesitate to join in
the chorus of praise
sung by all creation.
So, you softly and gently
hum the melody in our hearts
until they burst with you,
raising a rousing chorus
of Amazing Grace.
Music-making Spirit,
our new songs are lifted to you.

Every song, old and new, is offered to you,
God in Community, Holy in One,
even as we lift the prayer Jesus teaches,

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

2. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

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GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 15: 9-25

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without a cause.'

Sermon: Friends and Enemies

The Rev. Kerra Becker English

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Offering

Response: *Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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SENDING US OUT TO BE GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *More Love to Thee, O Christ*

1. More love to Thee, O Christ,
More Love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make
On bended knee.
This is my earnest plea:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

2. Once earthly joy I craved,
Sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek,
Give what I best.
This all my prayer shall be:
More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee,
More love to Thee!

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Charge and Benediction

Postlude: * *Jubilate* – Stewart Landon

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