*Welcome* *to worship!*

**Sunday February 20th, 2022**

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

***A joint online Zoom worship service with Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United Churches & friends.***

***Worship Leaders:*** *Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM, and Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div.*

*Music used under Onelicense # A-723979*

*Musicians: Thank you to the Masked Bandits: Gabrielle Untermann, Julia Shatford, Steven May, Barb Gilbert, Jane Plewman*

**GATHERING**

**Words of Welcome**

**Introit: Come All You People, MV 2 *(Zimbabwe)*  VIDEO**

*Music video used with permission, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*

[https://youtu.be/r\_I1S46dibM](about:blank)

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle in the name of the One who guides us into deep waters, who implores us to wade a little farther in, where God is at play, bringing us into good trouble. As we light this candle, **may we carry Christ’s light with us.**

**Acknowledgement of the Land and Ancestral Acknowledgement** *Heather Henry*

As we begin our worship, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land where each of us is gathered today. These lands remain home to many Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

We would also like to acknowledge the African ancestors, those Indigenous to the African continent.  It is important to acknowledge the generations of people of African descent who were forcibly brought to this land and displaced around the world, as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade.

We want to also acknowledge the historical and contemporary resilience of Black people of the African diaspora as they have and continue to unequivocally resist oppression; demand for social justice to dismantle oppressive practices, systemic and institutional racism; and make incredible contributions to our societies serving as examples of excellence and inspiration.

**God of hope, fashion us into a people of love, justice and reconciliation, following the example of Jesus. Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

We are a community of faith

that has been created by the love of God.

**We have been set free by the forgiveness in Jesus Christ,**

**so we can reach out to** **all those who cry out for the warm**

**embrace of a community of faith.**

We have come not to praise our own goodness,

but to praise the holiness of God.

**We have come not to boast what we have done,**

**but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ**

**by extending the hand of community**

**to all who are marginalized.**

**Opening Hymn: It’s Me, It’s Me O Lord** [**https://youtu.be/2zNmNECn5mU**](about:blank)

**Opening Prayer**

God of kindness,

Interrupting our vicious cycles

of resentment and revenge:

teach us to walk the way of forgiveness

beyond all accounting

and to love the gift

that has no measure;

through Jesus Christ, who died for all. Amen.

**We Open Our Hearts to the Spirits Voice**

Whether you take what is written in the bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words of scripture for the meaning that they hold in your life.

**May God bless us with wisdom and wonder as we prayerfully consider the meaning of these words of scripture in our lives.**

## A Reading from the book of Genesis 45:1-11, 13-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.2And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.6For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.  13You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” 14Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Holy Wisdom Holy Word, **Thanks be to God.**

**Hynn: Listen God is Calling MV 97 (Tanznia)**  VIDEO

https://youtu.be/s7ekBDXdd2I

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6: 27-38**

27“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.34If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Holy Wisdom Holy Word, **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Pastor Steven

**Hymn:** God who Gives to Life its Goodness VU 260 The Masked Bandits

Invitation to the Offering

**A Moment to Celebrate the Gifts of Black Canadians**:

Offertory Prayer

**Tender God, source of every good blessing,**

**we live, move and have our being within the rhythm of your grace.**

**Make holy all we offer you this day.**

**We ask this for the sake of Jesus the Christ,**

**who made himself poor**

**that we might know the riches of your love. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Prayer song: Kum ba yah** *African American Spiritual*  **VIDEO**

**Prayers of the People**

Loving God, come by us, we pray.

Come to:

The joyful …

The excited …

The grateful …

The scared …

The sad …

The weary …

The grieving …

The distraught …

The broken …

Come to us all we pray.

God in your love, **Hear our prayer.**

At this time we offer our prayers for all who are in need:

*Prayers of intercessions are offered*

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ,

our faithful friend**. Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

*Source: This Far By Faith, An African American Worship Resource,*

*adapted by Rev. Lenny Duncan*

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you do not abandon us,

but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity,

like Viola Desmond, Rev. Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Harriet Tubman,

Malcolm X, Calvin Ruck, and the millions who responded to the cry of George Floyd for his mother:

The cry of the poor and the oppressed has become your own cry;

our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant

to preach good news to the afflicted,

to break bread with the outcast and despised,

and to ransom those in bondage to white supremacy and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our friend and protector Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my brown body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my brown blood,

shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup

we proclaim the Rebels death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,

we await the day when Jesus shall return

to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, power of Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,

to fill the hearts of all who share this meal with courage and wisdom

to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets, rebels, oddballs, poor, displaced, and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,

we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Holy Parent, now and forever. **Amen.**

With Christ our Liberator we pray: **God our Mother and Father in Heaven …**

*At the Breaking of the Bread:*

The gifts of God for the people of God **Thanks be to God**

*We share the bread and the cup*

Prayer after communion:

**We give you thanks, Loving God,**

**that you have refreshed us through this healing gift of life.**

**Send us from this table to tables throughout the world**

**to love and serve in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: Grateful MV # 182 VIDEO**

**https://youtu.be/4cNT8NSG2QE**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

In Uganda there is a saying:

One who experiences something good must share it.

We who have received, felt, tasted and experienced

the good news must share it.

Go, then, into the world

to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ,

in your words, actions, and deeds.

**Sending Music: Go Now in Peace VIDEO**

<https://youtu.be/jQg2XqZcZjI>