



ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2020

Worship Leader: Andy Davis

PRELUDE: "Beatitudes" by Peter Amidon *Patty Meyer*

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Song:

*Happy birthday, happy birthday, we love you
Happy birthday, and may all your dreams come true
When you blow out the candles one light stays aglow
It's the love light in your eyes, where'er you go.*

SILENT MEDITATION and THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: #258 "Morning Has Broken" Words: Eleanor Fajeon;

Gaelic traditional tune *Sarah Ellis vocals, Patty Meyer piano*

RESPONSIVE READING from Psalm 86

Andy and Emma Davis

Teach me your way, O God,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart
to revere your name.

**I give thanks to you,
O God my God,
with all my heart,
and I will glorify
your name forever.**

For great is your steadfast love
toward me;
you have delivered my soul
from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the insolent rise up

**against me;
A band of ruffians
seeks my life,
and they do not set you
before them.**

But you, O God,
are merciful and gracious,
slow to anger
and abounding
in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Turn to me
and be gracious to me;
give your strength
to your servant;**

Show me a sign
of your favor,
Because you, O God,
have helped me
and comforted me.

PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before God.
Almighty and merciful God, you created and are creating still.
In your presence our limits lie stark before us.
We confess our unkind words, our cold hearts, our turning away from
neighbors, our broken promises, and our unrepentant hours.

Forgive us, God.

We confess that we have squandered the gifts you have given.
We have neglected the land. We have grasped for goods.
We have loved power more than people.

Forgive us, God.

Come into our hearts and make us new again.
We pray in the Christ's name. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God hears our prayer.
This we know is true.
God's forgiveness embraces us.
This is good news for all.

As God's children, in God's embrace, you are forgiven and free.

ANTHEM: "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

African American spiritual, arr. Horace Clarence Boyer

Carolyn Wesley soloist, Patty Meyer piano, Stefan Amidon percussion, Guilford Community Church Virtual Choir

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

African American spiritual

1. We are climb-ing Ja - cob's lad - der,
2. Ev - 'ry round goes high-er, high - er,
3. If you love him why not serve him,

3 We are climb-ing Ja - cob's lad - der,
Ev - 'ry round goes high-er, high - er,
If you love him why not serve him,

5 We are climb-ing Ja - cob's lad - der,
Ev - 'ry round goes high-er, high - er,
If you love him why not serve him,

7 Bro - thers sis - ters all.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE "Cherokee Creation" *Andy Davis*

PRAYER

HYMN: #259 "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" Geoffrey A. Suddert-Kennedy, 1921;

Music: John Logan's "Sixteen tune Settings, 1912"; Harmony: C. Winfred Douglas, The

Hymnal, 1940 *Tony Barrand vocals, Patty Meyer piano*

CONTEMPORARY READING "Stone" by Charles Simic *Patrice Murray*

Go inside a stone That would be my way. Let somebody else become a dove
Or gnash with a tiger's tooth. I am happy to be a stone. From the outside
the stone is a riddle: No one knows how to answer it. Yet within, it must be
cool and quiet Even though a cow steps on it full weight, Even though a child
throws it in a river; The stone sinks, slow, unperturbed To the river bottom
Where the fishes come to knock on it And listen. I have seen sparks fly out

When two stones are rubbed, So perhaps it is not dark inside after all;
Perhaps there is a moon shining From somewhere, as though behind a hill—
Just enough light to make out The strange writings, the star-charts

On the inner walls.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Katherine Breunig*

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place-- and I did not know it!"

And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn:#617

"Write These Words in Our Hearts ..."

SERMON: "Heaven and Earth" *Andy Davis*

ANTHEM: "The Goldilocks Principle" *composed and performed by Andy Davis*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: *Sarah and Bart Rankin*

Living and loving God, we come to you on this day as we have on many other days to give you thanks for so many things and to express our appreciation for being in fellowship with you and this community of faith.

We are part of each other, and rejoice in this belongingness. We are grateful yet humble for the opportunity to practice social justice, equality, and doing the next "right thing."

We need you and your presence, not only at this moment but throughout the week before we gather again in your name. We are thankful for your love and grace.

Often when we look around us at our world we are troubled and concerned. Lord we pray for your intervention and guidance in not only far away places - but also in our own country. Be with us as we reimagine and recommit ourselves to justice and compassion.

Please, Creator God, bring an end to the violence and death and suffering. And may there be peace and safety for all peoples.

We pray for an end to racial divisiveness We pray that our leaders help those most needing assistance. We pray for the needs of our people.

God, please look down inside each of us and understand the cares, burdens, hurts, and problems that are there. We need you right now as we are praying - especially those who are facing overwhelming challenges in these difficult times.

We thank you also for those people throughout history who have served as instruments of your peace. May the same Spirit who helped them to be faithful in their stewardship of humanity help us as we sow seeds of hope in our own community. In the name of the Spirit of the Living God, we pray. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

Hymn #278 "Hear our Prayer, Oh Lord..."

THE OFFERTORY

CALL TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

CLOSING HYMN: #250 "Here in This Place" by Marty Haugen, 1981

Connie & Tom Green, vocals, Patty Meyer piano

BENEDICTION

THREEFOLD AMEN: Hymn #291

POSTLUDE: "Here I am, Lord" Arr. Peter Amidon *Patty Meyer*

*We wish you a warm welcome this morning
and hope you will feel very much
at home and among friends.
Please plan to stay and join us
after the service on Zoom for a time
of fellowship and connection*