

PSEC Spring Meeting 2021
Friday pm Evening Worship
June 4, 2021

OPENING CALL TO GOD'S PRESENCE

Voice 1: Is God among us or not?
Voice 2: We need direction. (pause)
Voice 3: Is God among us or not?
Voice 4: We need God's help. (pause)
Voice 5: Is God among us or not?
Voice 6: Listen. (pause).
Voice 7: Hear God's voice.
Voice 8: Stop (pause).
Voice 9: Feel God's presence.

QUIET MUSIC TO CENTER OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

The Lone Wild Bird

CALL TO WORSHIP

Voice 1: Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.
Voice 2: With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.
Voice 3: And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.
Voice 4: O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.
Voice 5: Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.
Voice 6: Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice.
Voice 7: Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.

People: Praise be to God.

*Found in **Worship Ways**, United Church of Christ*

MUSICAL OFFERING An Iona Boat Song (Susan Royer)

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving God, there are times when we are impatient. We don't want to wait. We don't want to trust. We are stubborn. We are hard as rock.

People: Forgive us, God.

Leader: Yet, often just below the surface there is goodness, waiting to be tapped. We are scared of our journey. We hide from ourselves, others, and you, our God. Open us up, O God. Help us to find our connections.

People: Connect us and use us for your glory, O God.

Leader: Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me; Lord, be my help. (Psalm 30:10 NIV)

People: In God there is forgiveness, life and resurrection from the dead. We are redeemed and set free.

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near. (Isaiah 55:6 NRSV)

People: Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:7 NIV)

Leader: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:5 NIV)

People: In love and faithfulness God leads all who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Leader: For in Christ all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20 RSV)

People: By God we are redeemed and set free.

Compiled by Karl Jones

MUSICAL OFFERING Love Brought Me Back (Quakertown UCC)

THE SCRIPTURE The Walk to Emmaus Luke 24 (NRSV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER by Rev. William P. Worley

MESSAGE Sister Simone Campbell

MUSICAL OFFERING Alleluia, Alleluia (Olivet Schwenkfelder)

THE PRAYER (led by several leaders)

Gracious God, we pray for the faithful all over the world, that all who love you may be united in your service. We pray for the church . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)*

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations, that they may be reconciled one to another in pursuit of your justice and peace. We pray for the world . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)* Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence, that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness. We pray especially for all prisoners of politics or religion and for all refugees. We pray for all who are oppressed . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)* Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all in need because of famine, flood, or earthquake, that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others. We pray especially for the people of . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)* Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the land, the sea, the sky— for your whole creation, which longs for its redemption. We pray that we may live with respect for your creation and use your gifts with reverence. We pray for the creation . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)* Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness, loneliness, fear, or loss, that those whose names are in our hearts, in the hearts of others, or known to you alone, may receive strength and courage. We pray for those in need . . . *(leader can add appropriate prayers)*

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy now and forever.

Amen.

*modeled after a prayer by Louise Mangan in **Worship for All Seasons, Volume 1**,
© United Church Publishing House.*

MUSICAL OFFERING Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Christ UCC, Norristown)

GOING FORTH

We offer ourselves to you, O God, our Creator.

We offer our hands.

Use healing touch to comfort sisters, brothers, and children who are afraid.

We offer our eyes and ears.

May we see and hear the signs and stories of violence
so that all may have someone with them in their pain and confusion.

We offer our hearts and our tears as their hurt and sorrow echo within us.

May we be healed as we embrace each other.

We offer our anger.

Make it a passion for justice.

We offer all our skills.

Use our gifts to end violence.

We offer our faith, our hope, our love.

May our encounters with violence bring us closer to you and to each other.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who knows the pain of violence. Amen.

*Carrie Doehring, found in **The Worship Sourcebook**, first edition © 2004 Faith Alive*

THE BENEDICTION

People of God, made ready by God's love and mercy: Go forth into God's world to serve in ministries of justice, kindness and peace. Know always that God's peace is with you.

AMEN.

*Found in **Ministry Matters**, August 11, 2019*

MUSICAL OFFERING Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven (Valley Forge)