

PSEC Spring Meeting 2021
Closing Worship – Saturday Afternoon
June 5, 2021

Musical Offering “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (Maidencreek?)

Call to Worship

L – The world around us continues to struggle with this pandemic.

P – We are privileged to be able to have the kind of technology that allows us to be with and see each other.

L – We are at an important moment in time – a time when we can renew the church, or be buried in our memories of what we imagine the church should be.

P – We can sit comfortably, waiting for the end, or we can be bold, seeking a new way of doing the work of Jesus.

L – We have heard and seen and experienced what God is doing in the world.

P – We will sing a new song – let us worship God together.

Musical Offering “Will You Come and Follow Me?” (I don’t know who did this)

Prayer – We have gathered to remember a woman with no name, but who had a huge part to play and sharing the Gospel. We pray that we might have the same courage she had. We regret our hesitancy to talk about our faith with those who yearn to hear it. We seek courage to make the world better by sharing the living water that has refreshed us our whole lives. Amen.

Jesus is Tired

Scripture – John 4: 1 – 6

Now when Jesus^[a] learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John”² —although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized—³ he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

Musical Offering + This is the solo after the sermon from April 18 service from Carverville UCC)

Prayer – Our hearts are full of the wonder of Your love and grace, and we feel privileged to have received all that You offer. Hear our prayers as we seek new adventures and new stories – we offer our lives to You, renewed by the Holy Spirit. Help us to invite Her into our journey, so that Your beautiful creations might hear Good News. Amen.

The Water of Eternal Life

Scripture – John 4: 7 – 15

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)^[a] ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Musical Offering “Love as One” (One UCC)

Confession

L – This has been a time to be reminded that our lives are not our own – they belong to God.

P – We have been called to do good in all things, whether those we are doing good things for deserve it or not.

L –

Jesus Tells Her Story

Scripture – John 4: 16 – 24

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[a] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Musical Offering “Let Your Loud Hosannas Ring” (St. Paul’s, Sellerstown)

Prayer – Holy God, You see everything we have done, and You understand us. You know what we have been through, and You weep with us. You see the way sin is used to belittle us, and You weep. This day we have opened ourselves to You – to Your understanding of who we are, because You became one of us. Heal our pains that have riddled us with guilt, and move us towards the future, united in our faith as the body of Christ. Amen.

She Knows Her Theology

Scripture – John 4: 25 – 30

²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he,^[a] the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He

cannot be the Messiah,^[b] can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Musical Offering “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant” (Valley Forge)

Prayer – Merciful God, we take You for granted, forgetting that few people knew who You were during Your lifetime. Nobody truly understood You, yet You patiently waited for understanding to unfold. We thank You for all who seek greater understanding of You and Your mission. We thank You for being so patient with us, for we are imperfect beings created in Your image. Teach us Your ways, so that each one of us might grow into who You need us to be. Amen.

Jesus is Fed by Doing God’s Work

Scripture – John 4: 31 – 38

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶ The reaper is already receiving^[a] wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Musical Offering “Spring Comes Early” (St. James, Havertown)

Prayer – We know, O God, that the fields are full of people in need of Your Good News, yet we hesitate to find ways of sharing that message with them. We have all been told Your story, and it has made us better people, yet we are too often afraid to do the same for others. We hear the story of the Samaritan woman, and pray to be empowered to be like her: to share the story of Your unending love and incomprehensible serenity. Amen.

The Woman at the Well is the First Evangelist

Scripture – John 4: 39 – 42

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Sermon – Bill

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor: We come to this table asking Jesus to feed us, asking Jesus to fill us. Jesus meets us here, knowing the full truth of our lives. Jesus meets us here, ready to love us exactly as we are. Jesus meets us here, offering us the living water.

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, all of Creation sings your praise, and we gladly join our voices in the song. You created heaven and earth, you made us in your image, and you remain faithful to us, even when we wander from your ways. You call us back to you in the booming voices of prophets and apostles and in the still small voice we discover inside when we are quiet and listen.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who meets us where we are and knows the truth of our lives and loves and feeds us still. You

call us to join in Jesus' ministry of loving and feeding others and telling the world about all that you have done.

You have sent your Holy Spirit, and by the Spirit's movement in our lives, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: We remember that on the night of his betrayal and desertion, Jesus was sharing a meal with his disciples, he took bread, and blessed and broke it, and he gave it to them saying, "This is my body, broken for you, do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Our Savior gives us this bread, so that we will never be hungry. Our Savior gives us this cup, so that we will never be thirsty.

All: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and that we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

All: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, Eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you.

Pastor: Let us pray as Christ our Savior taught us.

Our God in heaven, holy is Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Keep us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

In the breaking of the bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

In the cup of blessing which we pour out, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: We thank you, almighty God, for bringing us together at this Table where Jesus meets us and offers us everything that we need to face the days ahead. Filled by your Holy Word, we will go forth to proclaim your love to the world. Fed by this Holy Meal, we will go forth to feed others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Musical Offering "Power of the Cross" (Pleasantville)

Benediction

L – The woman at the well is never named, but she believes and helps convert an entire region.

P – No matter where you come from, or where you are on your journey, Jesus welcomes you.

L – Jesus was tired, but He still took time for her.

P – We are tired too.

L – Jesus was hungry, but He still fed her soul.

P – We are hungry too.

L – We are sent out to a world filled with tired, hungry souls in need of the Living Water – in need of the Bread of Life – in need of the Church.

P – Here we are – send us!

L – Go in the name of Jesus and share your faith with anyone who is hungry and thirsty for God.

P – We go with the peace of Christ. Amen!

Musical Offering “Postlude” (Susan Royer)