

CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP – IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND HOPE

based on Psalm 25:1-10

It is in this holy season that we are led into hope. We have been waiting for hope to come for so long. We have put our trust in things and people, and more often than not, we have not put our trust in God. We have felt unsteady as the sands have shifted again and again underfoot.

We have been waiting for the waters to part, for the chaos to have order, so that we can find our way into the hope we know will come. We need to remember that hope is promised.

As we begin we light a candle, light one candle along the front of the altar

We light this candle today to remember that hope is promised in rainbows. God will teach us the paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. Hope is promised in the light that shines in you and me. Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN *Spirit Song*

Oh, let the Son of God enfold you
with his Spirit and his love;
Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let him have the things that hold you,
and his Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness
as your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.
Oh, give him all your tears and sadness,
give him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

TIME OF PRAYER

God of the rainbow, you made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope.
God of pathways, you show us how we should walk.

Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe. We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride. Forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love. We lift our prayers to you, and listen for your word

Time of silent reflection

God is merciful and full of steadfast love. God will not forget us. God will wash us clean, and lead us on paths of steadfast love and faithfulness.

We pray together, as Jesus taught. *Our Father....*

WORDS FOR THE YOUNGER DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17

MORNING REFLECTION

This is the Sign

HYMN OF RESPONSE In the Midst of New Dimensions

Words and Music by Julian Rush (1985)

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?
[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your
people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.
[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your
people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more

BLESSING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND OURSELVES

Righteous God, we mark these early days in the Lenten journey with reminders of your covenant with your people. In your judgement, you sent upon creation the great flood – yet you saved a faithful remnant. You followed with a covenant not to use the flood again.

As we prepare to offer our gifts to you, we are reminded that we have been spared from judgment by the one, your son, our Savior, who took on our guilt and bore our judgement. We remember the call to love one another, as you have loved us, and so we continue daily to give for blankets for those in need.

In gratitude, we give not only our financial gifts, but our whole being. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

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