



God Has Work for Us to Do: Faithful Disciples

Order of Worship
May 22, 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter
10:00 AM

10:00 Online Worship
YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"

GATHERING AND PRAISE

A Call to Silence

Our modern life can be summed up in the words hurry and worry. All the modern conveniences and technologies have not given us more time for being quiet or for worshipping. Everyone is busy and in a hurry. In the midst of this noisy, frenzied life, a call to silence seems almost ridiculous. Yet the call comes from the highest of authorities: "Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). For 15 minutes prior to the start of worship, you are urged to sit in quiet reverence before God. Use this time to feel the Holy Spirit's presence and to prepare your heart for worship.

Welcome

Prelude

Hymn of Promise

Sleeth

The Call to Worship

Choir

*There's a voice, strong and clear,
Ringing out far and near,
"Let justice roll down, let justice roll down!"
Like the rush of a stream,
Comes a powerful dream,
Let justice roll down, justice roll down.*

God asks us, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" God asks us, "Who will visit those who are in prison and advocate for a justice system that is fair and restorative?" God asks us, "Who will welcome the stranger and recognize as family all who call to God, of

country of origin or immigration status?” God asks us, “Who will heal the wounds of slavery, break the bonds of prejudice and oppression, affirm in word and action that all people are equally important. God ask us, “Who will care for the earth and model a lifestyle rooted in stewardship, that shares and protects the goodness of creation?” God asks, and we know the answer, don’t we. Who will? We will? God has work for us to do!

Choir

*Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an ever flowing stream.
Roll down! Roll down, justice.
Roll like an ever-flowing stream,
flowing stream, roll down.*

Holy and Living God, the list is long.

May peace flow. Let justice roll

Let us not feel overwhelmed, but convicted to our call.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Remind us that we are called to invite the least and the unlikely to your church.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Choir and Congregation Sings

*Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an ever-flowing stream,
flowing stream, roll down!*

The Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Let us pass the peace of Christ with those around us.

Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH 584

Children’s Time

Shine Your Light

Pastor Debra

Morning Prayers

Pastor Debra

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Dan Ensor

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept you Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our scripture from Isaiah speaks of being a “well-watered garden like a spring of water that won’t run dry.” Baptismal waters continue to feed the streams of justice as we allow the Holy Spirit to work within us every time we set our hands and feet to the work God has us to do. Today, we remember that as long as there are those who are hurting, hungry, excluded and oppressed, we are called to be faithful disciples, inviting everyone to come to Jesus, the Living Water.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 58:6-12

This passage from Isaiah 58:6-12 voices a prophetic corrective to rituals which had become hypocritical. In prophetic passages like this, the church today still finds its mandate to call on its own resources for a realistic concern for the poor, the oppressed and the homeless. Yet these poetic lines were composed more than 2500 years ago by a prophet who stands in the tradition of Israel's other great voices for justice - Amos, Micah and Jeremiah. The world awaits a fellowship of faithful people willing to risk implementing such a plan in this age.

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice

and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free

and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry

and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them,

and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,

and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness will go before you,

and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;

you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,

with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

10 and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
11 The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

New Testament Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus set a high standard for individual justice. For example, he warned that acting out in anger toward someone was tantamount to murder, urging that if we're angry with someone, to resolve conflicts quickly. (Mathew 5:21-26). Jesus also said that it was not good enough that we love our neighbors, but we must love our enemies as well.

Jesus spoke of justice from another perspective as well: that of people who sought justice through faith and kept asking until they received it. In our scripture reading from Luke, Jesus tells a parable of a widowed woman who pleaded with an unjust judge to grant her justice in her case. Again and again he refused her, and again and again she brought her claim back to him.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Choir and Congregation's Sung Response

*Let justice roll, roll down like water
and righteousness like a flowing stream.
Let justice roll, roll down like water
and righteous like a flowing stream.*

Sermon

God Has Work for Us to Do: Faithful Disciples

Pastor Debra

I Dream of a Church...

Dan Ensor

Offertory Invitation

Pastor Debra

As we give our offerings today, I invite you to think of a word that represents the work you feel called to do to be a part of the ever-flowing stream of justice. Would the ushers come forward to receive our morning tithes and offerings?

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Trust in Him

Schubert

**Doxology*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

For the gift of Your love offered,

we give thanks.

For the way in which our tithes and offerings will become our work in the world,

we give thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together,

we give thanks.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

Here I am, Lord

UMH 593

Benediction

Pastor Debra

As counterintuitive as it may seem, the more we give away, the more we receive. Remember, you are the hands and feet of Jesus and there is work for us to do! Let the call to mend brokenness and restore ruins mend, mend and restore your very life.

May the song you sing in your heart be pleasing to God, moving you to the passion and compassion of Jesus, uplifted by the Spirit that keeps you humming life's tune in love. Go forth in peace and justice. Amen.

Benediction Song

*May peace flow thorough me
as music through an instrument.*

*Let it flow through me
like the warmth of the sun.
May peace flow through me
so that I may be a vessel
Of the love of God for everyone,
for everyone.*

Postlude

Chorus of Praise

Johnston

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

*Lord, you give the great commission:
"Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you call us to your service:
"In my name baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us
closer in community.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you make the common holy:
"This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us*

*share your children's liberty.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you show us love's true measure:
"Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure
all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
to a just society.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.*

*Lord, you bless with words assuring:
"I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity.
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.*

Here I Am, Lord

***Refrain:
Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord,
If you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

*I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save
I who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send? **Refrain***

*I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my peoples pain,*

*I have wept for love of them.
They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? **Refrain***

*I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? **Refrain***