



*A Service of Prayer and Holy Communion
For the People of Ukraine*

**Order of Worship
May 8, 2022
Fourth 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 worshiping. 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

God Give the Glory

Schutte

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.*

How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? How long, O God, must we feel like outsiders, strangers in a strange land, a people held captive by fear, abuse of power, prejudice, violence, and unjust institutions. How long, O God, must we be in fear for our

children who are growing up in a world of terror and violence? How many people must die from violence and war? We long for your justice, for your peace, O God, we long to be released from these shackles of fear and injustice, and until that time, we cry out with the Psalmist, "How long?"

Choir

*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, we long for your justice, for your peace.

May peace flow. Let justice roll

We long to be released from the shackles of fear and violence.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

We wait, O God, crying, "How long?"

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Choir and Congregation Sings

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

The Peace of Christ

Peace be with you!

And also with you!

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

Hymn

I Need Thee Every Hour

UMH 397

See last page for words

Come as a Child

Thanks and Prayers for Mothers

Pastor Debra

Prayers for Ukraine

See Insert

Ministry of Music

We Come Together Here

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination (All Praying)

Brenda Krens

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your 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.

Psalm 13

Over half of the liturgical songs of the Israelites were Psalms of Lament. Written in a time of exile and persecution, these poets trying to give voice to the pain of the people. Today, we lament the violence and injustice of our time and yet, we also remember that even and especially in times of despair, through our baptism we are given the “freedom and power to resist evil in all of its forms” as we put our whole trust in God. How will we put these words into action to show hope for the world?

Our first scripture reading is Psalm 13, a *Psalm of Lament*.

¹ How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,”
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing the Lord’s praise,
for he has been good to me.

Our second scripture lesson is from Amos 5:21-24. Amos was a prophet to the nation of Israel around 760 BC. This was about 200 years after the time of King David and King Solomon when the Hebrew nation had split into two kingdoms: Judah to the south and Israel to the north. Although from the Southern Kingdom of Judah, God called Amos to go and preach to the people of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. In these verses, God’s telling Israel, through Amos, that their worship was essentially worthless... that it meant nothing to him. The problem with Israel’s worship wasn’t that there was anything wrong with the rituals of worship they offered God. It’s just that it wasn’t genuine. It was hypocrisy. It went through the motions, but had no effect on their heart.

I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

24 But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:21-24

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

How Long: Renouncing Evil

Pastor Debra

Mission Moment: Ukraine

Becky Haines and Kristi Padley

Offertory Invitation

As we give our offerings today, I invite you to consider how God may be urging you to be an agent of justice and peace. Would the ushers come forward, please?

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Saved By Grace

**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 righteous indignation that can fuel compassion,
we give thanks.

For these offerings which can become ways to alleviate injustice,
we give thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together,
we give thanks.

Invitation to Holy Communion

I invite you to close your hands- making a tight fist if you can. Let us contemplate what we need to let go of in order to let justice roll down, to let justice prevail in our lives, in our churches, in our world. I invite you to imagine that tight fist as a symbol of the frustration

or anger over violence and injustice. What in particular creates sadness and lament for you? Now slowly open your hands, letting go of the tension there and imagine that cool water is flowing into and over them. It is only in opening to the freedom and power God has given us that our hands become ready for loving action and not closed and ready to meet violence with violence.

We come before you, God of goodness, frustrated and angered by violence and injustice, often feeling helpless and powerless in the struggle. Rather than work at what we can for your reign of love, we just want to throw up our hands in resignation. Forgive us and remind us of the power you give us to name and resist evil in all its forms. Move us closer to compassion and courage to speak up and stand up for what is right and good.

We lift up prayers for people whose names we know, whose circumstances are close at hand. We lift up _____. We lift up other names aloud or in the silence of our hearts of those in the church, of family and friends, of community members.

We lift up prayers for people whose names we do not know, but for whom our hearts break. _____

In this silence, we open ourselves to pray for all creation, for the things left unnamed, the hurts of which we are aware and for the deepest yearnings of our hearts. *Allow for a time of silence.* Move us closer to compassion and courage to speak up and stand up for what is right and good. Amen. As a sign of our commitment to Christ, let us gather around his table.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is good to cry out for the waters of justice to roll down bringing heaven on earth, watering it with God's will for love-soaked humanity since creation began. For God continues to stand with and for all peoples. And so we sing with all the company of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

New birth for creation broke forth upon us in Jesus. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

In these acts of love and justice we see the birth of our call as a church to let the waters of justice roll, knowing we have been delivered from death through a covenant of water and the Spirit. In this moment, we remember all who suffer in our day and imagine how Jesus would respond to them. In this silence I invite you to call to mind and heart, remembering to God the people and places, known and unknown, that need our prayers, that so desperately need a place at our table of love.

Just as he said it that last night with his disciples, Jesus says to us “come, gather around my friends.” This common bread at our table is much more than it seems. This is the brokenness of the world and I feel it as my body. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am broken for you.

This common cup at our table is much more than it seems. The blood of innocent ones is too often shed at the hands of oppressors. Whenever there is suffering, I suffer with you. I am poured out for you.

We proclaim this truth: Death is part of life.

Christ has died.

But death will not have the last word.

Christ has risen!

And suffering will end.

Christ will come again...

and again and again, every time suffering is alleviated, comfort is given, food is offered, hope is restored.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this body gathered here and on our union with each other and with these gifts of bread and cup. May we become your body for the sake of a world where justice rolls down like an ever-flowing stream.

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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The bread of life, strengthening you, to answer the call of justice and peace.
The cup of life, blessing you, to live in faith and grace.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, Almighty God,

we give you thanks.

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

we give you thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together,

we give you thanks. Amen.

Choir and Congregational 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.*

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

Closing Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

See last page for words

Benediction

As counterintuitive as it may seem, may the work of lament be the fuel for your empathy. Remember, we have the freedom and power to name injustice. We have the voice to speak against violence. In doing so, we expose injustice and violence to the Light of God in which it cannot survive. Let the act of grief move us, rather than paralyze us. Let us bless one another as we speak these words:

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. 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.*

I Need Thee Every Hour

*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.*

Refrain:

*I need thee, O I need thee;
every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.*

*I need thee every hour; stay thou nearby;
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.*

(Refrain)

*I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;
come quickly and abide, or life is vain.*

(Refrain)

*I need thee every hour; teach me thy will;
and thy rich promises in me fulfill.*

(Refrain)

*I need thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son.*

(Refrain)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.*

*There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;*

*and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.*