

WORSHIP SERVICE OCTOBER 17, 2021

“The Reflection”

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy,
Mary Hunter

Welcome We are in the third week of our “Quest” theme that is exploring our relationship with the wider world and a wider perspective of our own communities. Let us continue to imagine ourselves “far from home,” meeting each new insight with wonder, letting our experiences lead us to deeper reflection about ourselves. When we begin to broaden our experience of lands and peoples in our travel, or in our own towns and cities, we may move through a personal crisis if the plurality of religious thought and practice has not come into close view in our lives before. And yet, if we continue to reflect and open, what feels so different may not be as far from us as we first imagined. The light we seek and life-sustaining river that runs through the “Kin- dom” of God is full of common themes across religions: peaceful coexistence, food and shelter, love and compassion for those suffering and oppressed. How can deeper reflection about our own hesitation to connect to the wider human family free us to explore more possibilities for a better world?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Delbert Collins

OPENING PRAYER

Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. Decenter us even if we become uncomfortable. Show us how to be humble and willing to accept that all beings are sacred as created by you so that we will grow in peace, expand in love, and deepen in understanding. Nudge and guide us, we pray.
Amen.

By:Worship Design Studio

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

DISMISSAL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Confession and Assurance

Leader: We come to the water again today. Today’s scripture comes from the Book of Revelation—a powerful vision of a new creation, where the divisions are wiped away and all beings are one. It says, “To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” Our baptism reminds us that we are already part of the spring of the water of life. And our thirst that comes from forgetting that source can be quenched even now. Let us pray:

**ALL: Merciful God,
we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, through
what we have done and left undone. Forgive us when we
create boundaries of “us” and “them” and assume scarcity
where you offer abundance. Guide us as we seek to turn
around toward greater love. Lead us to travel in your ways.
Amen.**

Leader: Know this: There is a spring of life that flows throughout creation and is available to all—to us—when we need it most. In the midst of our fear, Jesus calls us to be a new creation. He is our constant companion, inviting us to reach out to one another, traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven
Glory to God. Amen!**

PASTORAL PRAYER**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. Forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not
into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

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DOXOLOGY Sign Language Choir

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, these gifts are not payment for services rendered. These aren't our dues necessary for us to belong to this church. We know you made us with a purpose, and so now we give ... on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands, outstretched, on purpose. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Make Me A Channel of Your Peace"
(choir)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to
create Jerusalem as a joy, and it's people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the
sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall
there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who
does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be
considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be
considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall
plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another
inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree
shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work
of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants
as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will
hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw

like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Revelations 21: 22-26

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD-**THANKS BE TO GOD**

SERMON

“New Life”

Rev. Effie McAvoy

MUSIC “Shall We Gather at the River”
(choir)

UMH 723

CLOSING PRAYER