



Shepherd of the Valley Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Road

Hope, Rhode Island 02831

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WORSHIP SERVICE April 3, 2022 WE ARE FRAGILE

Worship Leaders: Rev. Effie McAvoy, Sandy Knapp CLM, Mary Hunter, & Isabella
Acoylte: Natalia

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Delbert Collins

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, Lover of Souls, we call out to you. You know our tears and sorrows, and you bear the seeds of grief with us. Open us this day to your comfort that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy– the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.

BY:Worship Design Studio

Please stand in body or in spirit

MUSIC “Be Still My Soul” UMH# 534

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

REFLECTION

Leader:

Jesus speaks the words no one wanted to admit: he was not always going to be around. “Oh, don’t say that,” so many of us have said to a loved one who speaks the truth about the fragility of life. Perhaps we get uncomfortable because it reveals the precious nature of the present moment, laying bare the beauty and horror of it all. The indescribable pain we know we will one day face invades our senses like a pervasive perfume, inescapable. What if we stopped denying the limited nature of our lives and breathed in deeply the fragrance of vulnerability? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silent Reflection

Leader:

Hear this compassionate word from Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead." Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the need to avoid suffering at the cost of denying the fullness of life. We are invited into the knowledge that Christ's vulnerability in life, death, and resurrection shows us the sacred nature of the heights and depths of sorrow and joy in our own saga. And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

MUSIC "Good Enough"
(Delbert Collins)

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR OFFERINGS

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH
604 SEVEN MILE ROAD HOPE, RI. 02831
401-821-8217 www.sovumc.org/give-now

Please stand in body or in spirit

DOXOLOGY Sign Language & Adult Choirs

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.

MUSIC "All My Trials"
(Choir)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the water courses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

SERMON

"No More Sorrows"
Rev. Effie McAvoy

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader:

This is the table not of the Church, but of our God.

It is to be made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come: You who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who rarely attend; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come not because I invite you: but because God does. It is God's will that those who want to should meet God here. My brothers and sister, not out of dread and fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

All: Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters in earth and sky, you are there. O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we give you thanks. But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

Leader:

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

All: Let us offer each other the peace of Christ. Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader:

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader:

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature

around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

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

Leader:

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying,

This is my body, given to you. In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now, as we do in this place what you did in an upstairs room, send down your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine that they may become for us your body, healing, forgiving, and making us whole; and that we may become, for you, your body, loving and caring in the world.

Leader:

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread. He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

All: With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

Leader:

The gifts of God for the people of God...

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader:

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

All: Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

CLOSING PRAYER

POSTLUDE Delbert Collins

Website: www.sovumc.org

<https://www.facebook.com/shepherdofthevalleyri>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq6OxG9rThiQ9GeUqekdEjQ>

Rev. Effie McAvoy, Pastor
Sandy Knapp, CLM
Delbert Collins, Interim Music Director
Lisa Marciniak, Family & Children's Coordinator
Mary Hunter Lay Leader

Worship and Sunday School at 10:00 AM
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON

VISION STATEMENT

**We are a multi-generational Christ community
seeking to sing God's spirit into the world
by inviting all, serving all, loving all.**