



Worship Service for August 25, 2024

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Paula McKnight
Welcome	Paula McKnight
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Praise & Worship Songs	Congregation

“We'll Be the Hands, We'll Be the Feet”

Open our hearts, open our minds

Let us join together as we have been designed

Let us grow more deeply into You

Let us spread Your light and keep it shining through

Each one of us, all around the earth

As a part of the Body, has our worth

We'll be the hands, we'll be the feet

We'll circulate through the heart, where we all meet

Built up in love, and joined as one

Grown into Christ, we'll see Your work through till it's done

We will be strong, we'll live without fear

Emboldened by Your love, we will persevere

We will stand for truth, in justice, we'll rejoice

We will speak the Word for those who have no voice

Each one of us, all around the earth

As a part of the Body, has our worth

We'll be the hands, we'll be the feet

We'll circulate through the heart, where we all meet

Built up in love, and joined as one

Grown into Christ, we'll see Your work through till it's done

Help us to seek that we might find

Your compassion and grace for all humankind

Help us connect as one community

Abiding in Your loving unity

Each one of us, all around the earth
As a part of the Body, has our worth

We'll be the hands, we'll be the feet
We'll circulate through the heart, where we all meet
Built up in love, and joined as one
Grown into Christ, we'll see Your work through till it's done

Announcements

Paula McKnight

Call to Worship

Paula McKnight

LEADER: Your glory, O Mystery, is declared in the holy
silence of the heavens, and told in the silent succession
of day and night.

**ALL: The sun joyfully leaps across the sky, from
one end of the heavens to the farthest reaches,
and nothing is hidden from its heat or light.**

LEADER: Expand our hearts to enjoy the sweet
drippings of the honeycomb of curiosity and exploration.

ALL: Expand our minds to ponder with holy wonder the source of it all and the myriad manifestations all around us.

LEADER: Let our lives be radiant with holy wonder,

ALL: delighting in your earth and receiving wisdom from the majesty of creation.

***Congregational Song**

Congregation

TNCH #30 “Colorful Creator” vs. 1, 3, & 4

Colorful Creator, God of mystery,

Thank you for the artist teaching us to see

Glimpses of the meaning of the commonplace,

Visions of the holy in each human face.

Author of our journey, God of near and far,

Praise for tale and drama telling who we are,

Stripping to the essence struggles of our day,

times of change and conflict when we choose our way.

God of truth and beauty, Poet of the Word,
May we be creators by the Spirit stirred,
Open to your presence in our joy and strife,
Vessels of the holy coursing through our life.

Gathering Prayer

Paula McKnight

ALL: God of the Cosmos, your love reaches beyond space and time. We are astonished by your vast creation – innumerable galaxies surrounded by dark matter, elegant structures and staggering variety, the interplay of matter and energy, the pull of gravity and the speed of light, the verdancy and resources of earth – all showing your wisdom and glory, O God! We are dust and stardust, made in your image. We are part of the creation you are making new. Let our awe increase, until we find ourselves beautifully plunged in wonder, love, and praise.

Amen.

Biblical Witness

Paula McKnight

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

In Wisdom's Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season
by Jan L. Richardson

When I was growing up, both my sets of grandparents had summer homes next to one another on a lake. I spent much of each summer running back and forth. One of the most comforting sounds lodged in my memory is that of the waves lapping against the lakeshore at night. Moving through the open windows of the room, the sound of lapping water worked itself into the rhythm of our summer slumber.

God of the waters,
help me to know
that there will be wilderness,
but the wilderness
will turn to green land;
that there will be desert,
but in the desert
a spring;
that in the heart
of the rock
of my life
will begin to flow
a river
washing through
the chasm of my soul;
and that I will walk
wet with memory
when again I touch

dry land.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión
“In Wonder’s Path”

Special Music

Mark Vines (video)
“Only Hope”

There's a song that's inside of my soul
It's the one that I've tried to write over and over again
I'm awake in the infinite cold
But you sing to me over and over and over again

So I lay my head back down
And I lift my hands and pray
To be only yours I pray
To be only yours
I know now you're my only hope

Sing to me the song of the stars
Of your galaxy dancing and laughing and laughing again
When it feels like my dreams are so far

Sing to me of the plans that you have for me over again

So I lay my head back down

And I lift my hands and pray

To be only yours I pray

To be only yours I know now you're my only hope

I give you my destiny

I'm giving you all of me

I want your symphony

Singing in all that I am

At the top of my lungs

I'm giving it back

So I lay my head back down

And I lift my hands and pray

To be only yours I pray

To be only yours I pray

To be only yours I know now you're my only hope

Mm, mm-mm-mm-mm, ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh

PASTOR: Today, we remember the beginning – where the Spirit of God hovered over the waters of Creation. Blessing water as a source of life for all the Earth, God has made us dependent on this resource.

ALL: Water reminds us of our limits -- without it, our lives and communities cannot be sustained. Water reminds us of what refreshes and renews our bodies and souls both spiritually and physically. And water reminds us of our relationship to other creatures – animals, plants, and humans alike, all thirst. We remember that we are all connected and it is our responsibility to share this earth and its resources with all of God’s beloved creation.

PASTOR: This morning, I invite those who brought water with them come forward now. The water you offer will be a symbol of gratitude for all God’s gifts of creation, may we listen for God’s voice in the waters – water from (name sources of water). The waters from all around unite us and remind us of our connections – to the earth, to one another, and God.

Pastoral Prayer for the Gathering of Waters

ALL: Creative One, we give you thanks for the wonder and power and beauty of this earth. How blessed we are to live as a part of the whole. We ask your blessing upon the waters brought forth by this congregation and all the bodies of water they represent. We acknowledge the ways we take for granted our access to earth's resources, including water. Grant us willing hearts to change this. May we be reminded of how you bless and hold our lives together, relationally, spiritually, and ecologically. With joy and thanksgiving, we pray.

Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Paula McKnight

NAM Family Violence Center

Offertory Music

Marshall Davies

***Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one
Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Paula McKnight

**ALL: Gracious and Generous One, for the
blessings of this and all our days we thank you.
Accept, we pray, not just these gifts we bring but
also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all
you have done and do for us. May they serve
your purpose and will in this place and wherever
you might take us.**

Amen.

***Congregational Song**

Congregation

Sing! #71 "God of Inspiration" vs. 1 & 2

To the One who paints the colors into the sunsets of the sky.
To the One who shapes the plants and creatures, infinite of
design.

For the 'unsymmetric' symmetry of the sparrow, the oak, the rose.

For the ever-changing tapestry that feeds the eye and soul.

We praise You, O God of Inspiration.

We praise You, for breathing life into creation.

O we praise You, praise You. We praise You, God...

...for the canvas of our lives.

To the One who stirs the rhythms into the universe of time.

To the One who calls forth songs of life, joining heart and soul and mind.

For the perfect imperfection of creation resounding Your Word.

For the never-ending symphony of Your love's longing to be heard.

We praise You, O God of Inspiration.

We praise You, for breathing life into creation.

O we praise You, praise You. We praise You, God...

...for the canvas of our lives.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Song of Parting

Congregation

Sing! #196 "Let It Shine"

Let it shine, let it shine,

The light of the world that shows the way;

Let it shine, let it shine,

And show us love today.

Let it shine, let it shine,

The light of the world that shows the way;

Let it shine, let it shine,

And show us joy today.

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Video: Sarah Bowman

Sound: Cathy Normand

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

YouTube Host: Mary Lowell

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