



Worship Service for November 20, 2023 Transgender Day Of Remembrance

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Aimee Broadhurst
Welcome	Pastor Felix
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix
Call to Worship	Aimee Broadhurst

LEADER: Spirit of Life, God of Many Names and One
Transforming and Abundant Love,

**ALL: Broaden our imagination to see you in the
faces of all those we meet along the way.**

LEADER: Spirit of Life – open our hearts to the
community of souls that surround us.

**ALL: Allow our words to be softened before the
miracle of being.**

LEADER: Strengthen our voice so that it may be a
service to others.

**ALL: Stir in us compassion when it is gone,
temperance when we are in our might, and hope
when it is hard to find.**

LEADER: Spirit of Life, God of Many Names and One
Transforming and Abundant Love,

**ALL: We especially hold dear this day and every day
all the lives who have suffered harm for the
bodies they were born into;**

LEADER: For the genders whose expressions didn't
stand up to the gaze of society.

**ALL: May our love, compassion, and commitment, to
seeing a world more free, empower one and all
to find the love and hope they need to continue
living. May it be so!**

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! # 123 "Draw The Circle Wide"

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,
'Round whom all creation turns;

Nothing lost, but held forever
In God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.

Gathering Prayer

Congregation

ALL: God, full of mercy, bless the souls of all who are in our hearts on this Transgender Day of Remembrance. We pray for the strength to carry on their legacy of vision, bravery, love, and

authenticity. As we remember them, we remember with them the thousands more who have taken their own lives. We pray for resolve to root out the injustice, ignorance, and cruelty that grow despair.

And we pray, God, that all those who perpetrate hate and violence will speedily come to understand that Your creation has many faces, many genders, many holy expressions. Blessed are they, who have allowed their divine image to shine in the world. Blessed is God, in Whom no light is extinguished. Amen.

1st Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

Ephesians 2:13-22

But now in Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made [all] groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. Jesus has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity, thus making peace, and putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace and granted us access in one Spirit to the God. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but

you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

2nd Biblical Witness

Aimee Broadhurst

I AM

I defied the gender binary.

I challenged the first pronouncement ever made about me.

I questioned the evidence my body presented to me,
and I took issue with the guidance of my parents,
who assumed,

and nudged my life down one path
without even asking me

if that's where I wanted to go.

I confounded my society and my culture,
and I ignored what I was told was the norm.

I lived on the edges

and I defied definitions.

I am far more than the names I have been called.

I have done many things and lived many lives.
I am the rule-breaker, the exception, the trickster,
the one who divides and multiplies the gender binary
until it becomes a string of infinite possibilities.

In ancient times I was celebrated
as one who walked in many worlds.

I was revered as the one who embodied transformation
and who showed the world
that we can change

But ancient wisdom has long been forgotten
and now I pay the price for our forgetfulness.

We tend to behave badly Toward
that which we do not understand,
and therein lies the pain.

Like all of creation,

I am a mystery.

I don't seek to be understood

I just seek to be accepted.

- By Emma Chattin

Reflection

Pastor Felix

“You Are a Dwelling Place for God”

In Memoriam -- Honoring the Lives Taken from Us

Ciaran Jones & Sara Hendon, Marshall

Special Music

Aimee and Mark

“A Hidden Hallelujah”

There's a hallelujah hidden in a downtown bar where a drag queen is performing tonight.

She will float above her body when the protestors come, but there's still a flame inside her burning bright.

There's a hallelujah hidden in a Texas school where a mom is scared while waiting for her boy with new laws to govern gender they will let you drown, but she's praying for a way to carry on.

They're both reaching for the music, the faintest whisper of that kingdom come.

They're all reaching for that hidden hallelujah, straining hard to hear those bells of justice ring.

And though it's bad as it can get, they're not giving up just yet 'cause it ain't over 'til the angels sing.

There's a hallelujah hidden in a crisis home where a shy transgender teen puts on their shoes.

All the frightened stares will cut today and the insults burn. But they'll rise again tomorrow just like you.

We're all reaching for the music, the faintest whisper of that word of grace. We're all reaching for that hidden hallelujah, straining hard to hear those bells of justice ring.

And though your weeping lasts all night, joy comes with the morning light 'cause it ain't over 'til the angels sing.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We're all reaching for that hidden hallelujah, straining hard to hear those bells of justice ring.

And though you're walking through the fire, the love of God will never tire, 'cause it ain't over 'til the angels sing, it ain't over 'til the angels sing.

Responsive Reading

Pastor Felix & Aimee Broadhurt

LEADER: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.

**ALL: We remember their radiant light that brightened
the night with their life.**

LEADER: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of
winter, we remember them.

**ALL: We remember the warmth of their spirit and the
joy they shared**

LEADER: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of
spring, we remember them.

**ALL: We remember who they blossomed to become,
claiming their true selves.**

LEADER: In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth
of summer, we remember them.

**ALL: We remember them in tank tops and tube tops,
practical sandals and colorfully decorated
flip-flops.**

LEADER: In the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty
of autumn, we remember them.

ALL: We remember the way transition brought out their most vibrant colors, a glorious and splendid array.

LEADER: In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

ALL: We remember their hopes and dreams at each New Year and we mourn their gifts, now lost forever.

LEADER: When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

ALL: We remember their fierce courage to live as their authentic selves.

LEADER: When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

ALL: We remember they once felt lost too yet said “yes” to life.

LEADER: When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

ALL: We remember their joy, their pride, their excitement, and the love they gave to the world around them.

LEADER: So long as we live, they too shall live...

ALL: for they live on in our hearts and in our
commitment to create a society that truly values
acceptance, inclusion, justice and love.

Prayer of Confession for Transgender Day of Remembrance

Congregation

ALL:

Divine Beloved

You are spirit

You are truth

All are created in your image

We reflect your brilliant and beautiful diversity

Today we remember our siblings

their precious flesh

their precious bones

their precious blood

and their precious spirits

**Today we ask forgiveness
for our complicity with the violence they suffered
through
silence
nervous laughter
thoughtless disregard
or baseless fear
of our siblings who beautifully defy
society's binary gender construction**

**Forgive us
Awaken us
Remind us
Transform us**

They will always be Divine Beloved to us

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! # 122 "Pray"

Pray, pray, pray

For peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray,
For peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:
Quiet our busy hearts.
Pray, pray, pray.
Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray
For peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray,
For peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:
Open our aching hearts.
Pray, pray, pray.
Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray
For peace within our world.
Pray, pray, pray,
For peace within our souls.
Pray, pray, pray for love and unity:
Touching our crying hearts.
Pray, pray, pray.
Pray, pray, pray.

Benediction

Pastor Felix

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Aimee Broadhurst

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

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