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**Worship Service for January 16, 2022**

**Prelude** Marshall Davies

**Chiming of the Hour** John Davis

**Welcome** Pastor Mak

**Centering Moment** Pastor Mak

**Call to Worship** John Davis

LEADER: This month we mark a new beginning.

 **ALL: We set our minds and spirits on you, O God.**

LEADER: We are the work of your hands, your spirit, and your love.

 **ALL: Help us to leave behind the failures and flaws of the past year.**

LEADER: Loosen our grip on the past so that we can be free in your love.

 **ALL: You are God.**

LEADER: We trust you to be our strength.

 **ALL: We worship you in spirit, in hope, and in love.**

**Kidz Korner** Pastor Mak

**Hymn** Sing! # 84 “All My Days” Marshall Davies

**Biblical Witness** 2 Esdras 10:29 - 40 John Davis

While I was speaking these words, the angel who had come to me at first came to me, and when they saw me lying there like a corpse, deprived of my understanding, they grasped my right hand and strengthened me and set me on my feet, and said to me, “What is the matter with you? And why are you troubled? And why are your understanding and the thoughts of your mind troubled?”

I said, “It was because you abandoned me. I did as you directed, and went out into the field, and lo, what I have seen and can still see, I am unable to explain.” They said to me, “Stand up strong, and I will instruct you.” I said, “Speak, my lord; only do not forsake me, so that I may not die before my time. For I have seen what I did not know, and I hear what I do not understand — or is my mind deceived, and my soul dreaming? Now therefore I beg you to give your servant an explanation of this bewildering vision.”

They answered me and said, “Listen to me, and I will teach you, and tell you about the things that you fear; for the Most High has revealed many secrets to you. God has seen your righteous conduct, and that you have sorrowed continually for your people and mourned greatly over Zion. This therefore is the meaning of the vision.

**Contemporary Witness** Pastor Mak

“Like Those Who Dream”

UCC Daily Devotional by Talitha Arnold | Oct 5, 2021

In 2005, the southwestern United States was in the tenth year of a devasting drought. The pinon trees that covered the hills throughout northern New Mexico were among the casualties of the dry times. Stressed by drought and susceptible to bark beetles, they died by the thousands. Once green landscapes turned brown and grey with dead trees. For longtime residents, it felt like a death in the family.

But that August, it started to rain. Within days, fields of wildflowers sprang up. We couldn’t believe our eyes. Yellow cowpen daises, purple asters, and rare flowers not seen in a century covered the land. Scientists observed that it wasn’t only the rain that produced the riot of color. The needles of the dead pinons had provided the mulch and nutrients needed by long-dormant seeds. The trees would never be restored, but their death gave birth to a new beauty as far as the eye could see.

“May those who sow with tears, reap with shouts of joy,” proclaimed the composer of Psalm 126. “Those who go out weeping shall come home with shouts of joy.” The psalmist reminded the people of God’s power to call forth new life—and joy—in even the driest and deadest of times. The psalmist also called them, and us, to be “like those who dream”: to trust God’s possibilities, whether the dream be a return from exile or acres of cowpen daises and purple asters.

**Reflection** “Dreams that Quicken” Pastor Mak

**Special Music** Plymouth Choir

“Let the River Run”

**Pastoral Prayer** Pastor Mak

**Unison Prayer** Pastor Mak

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done, let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days – come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy. Forever your name is All in One.**

**Invitation to Offering**  John Davis

**Offertory Music** Marshall Davies

**Doxology** Marshall Davies

**Offertory Prayer** John Davis

LEADER: Holy One, you watch over our coming and our going.

**ALL: Sometimes we live in chaos. Sometimes in calm.**

LEADER: You walk with us always, in all circumstances.

**ALL: As a church we desire to walk with others in all their circumstances.**

LEADER: We bless this offering now as one way to do that.

 **ALL: May the time, talent, and treasure represented here be the first steps to sharing our abundant love.**

**Hymn**  Sing! # 213 “Wherever You Go” Marshall Davies

**Benediction** Pastor Mak

**Postlude** Marshall Davies