



Worship Service for October 23, 2022

Prelude

Marshall Davies

Chiming of the Hour

Mary Davis

Praise & Worship Celebration

Congregation

Sing! # 82 "You Are Holy"

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more
than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here
to the church in wine and bread,
Raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy. You are wholeness.

You are present,
let the cosmos praise you, God!
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
Halleluia our God.

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always ever more
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
to the church in wine and bread,
Raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy. You are wholeness.
You are present,
let the cosmos praise you, God!
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia
Halleluia our God.

Welcome

Pastor Mak

Centering Moment

Pastor Mak

Call to Worship

Mary Davis

LEADER: God of grace, we come before you with our whole
selves.

**ALL: We gather ourselves as a community of faith,
hope, and love.**

LEADER: Show us your kin-dom of kindness.

ALL: Teach us to love our enemies as well as our friends.

LEADER: Come to us as we come to you.

ALL: In your embrace we pray, praise, and rest.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #1 "Immortal Invisible God Only Wise" v1-3

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
In light inaccessible
Hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious,
The Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious,
Your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
And silent as light,
Not wanting, not wasting,
But ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains
High soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains
Of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving
To both great and small;
In all life you're living,
The true life of all;
We blossom and flourish
As leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish
But naught dims your powers.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Mak, Mary, and Terri

Song Of Songs 6:1 - 5

Where has your beloved gone,
O fairest among women?
Which way has your beloved turned,
that we may seek him with you?

My beloved has gone down to his garden,
to the beds of spices,
to pasture his flock in the gardens,
and to gather lilies.

I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;
he pastures his flock among the lilies.

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love,
comely as Jerusalem,
terrible as an army with banners.
Turn away your eyes from me,
for they overwhelm me!

Contemporary Witness

Mary Davis

“Cyrano, Disability, and the Importance of Being Seen”
(excerpt)

by Rev. Laura Cannata

Cyrano de Bergerac is a beautiful tragedy. It is a story about love, it is a story about life, and most importantly it is a story about being seen.

It has been adapted dozens of times since it was first written over a century ago, and each version has had its own take on the physical features that keep the title character from going after the love of his life. The newest one, Joe Wright’s film musical starring Peter Dinklage (based on a stage production that also featured Dinklage and was written and directed by his wife, Erica Schmidt) might be the first that reimagines Cyrano as a man who has dwarfism instead of a big nose.

This change has interesting implications in how the story’s themes relate to disability. Because I have dwarfism myself, it is hard to separate my personal feelings from the film, and maybe I shouldn’t.

Being seen is a common disability theme. Like Peter Dinklage’s Cyrano, I and others with visible disabilities struggle with the problem of being both seen and invisible

simultaneously. You see, we look different from other people, or our body movements or behaviors are different from the “norm.” We make an immediate and noteworthy entrance to any room. We can’t sneak. We are entirely visible with all our so-called flaws on the outside, which brands us as, well, outsiders.

But at the same time, our true selves are often invisible. People see Cyrano for his height; they don’t notice his cleverness or passion. People notice a wheelchair user’s chair, or a blind person’s cane. Those with disabilities are often seen just for their disabilities and not for their personality or talents. ...

Cyrano is a beautiful film, but don’t expect a happy ending. Like life, it’s complicated—the film stays true to the original play, and Roxanne and Cyrano admit their feelings only on Cyrano’s deathbed. He gets to hear her confess her love, only to die right away. There is no “They lived happily ever after.”

As someone with multiple disabilities, I have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, the ending sticks to the source material, which is something I always admire. On the other hand, it means we have yet another story where the disabled person doesn’t get a happy ending — this is a beautiful ending, a poignant ending, but not a happy one. Now, every

**through accident,
Illness,
medical procedure,
the passage of time,
and more actions and events than we can name.
I have made my body my own,
through prosthetics,
assistive tech,
tattoos and piercings,
Medications,
intentional movement,
Meditation,
and all the choices one can make about a body.
This body is mine,
co-created with you, O God.
I bless it, as it is blessed by you.
I bless it in comfort and in pain,
in clarity and in brainfog,
in ease of movement and in struggle,
in the good days and the bad.
I bless this body, even when I do not love what it does.
I bless this body because
it is the only body I have.
And I will live in it,
for we are one.
Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

Mary Davis

Plymouth's General Fund &

"National Multiple Sclerosis Society" - Loose Offering

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

Mary Davis

written by Rev. Dr. Derek Browning

LEADER: Generous God, here are our gifts of time;

ALL: here are our gifts of talents;

LEADER: here are our gifts of money;

ALL: building stones for Your Kingdom,

LEADER: awaiting shaping and placing

ALL: within Your loving purpose. Amen.

*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.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
 Than we've ever dreamed before;
 Let the dream of Christ be in us,
 Open every door.

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.

Benediction

Pastor Mak and Mary Davis

“Litany of Continuing Access” By Bekah Anderson

Pastor Mak: As we leave this place, let us celebrate the work we have done: the ramps that connect us, the elevators that uplift us, the conversations that help us know more deeply how God is present with us, reflected in a diversity of bodyminds.

ALL: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

Mary: And we realize that there is always more to be done. Our physical access has not accounted for every body. Our communication access has not accounted for every mind.

Our attitudes and theologies remain shaped by a culture that does not love disabled bodyminds, and untangling those beliefs is the work of a lifetime.

ALL: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

Pastor Mak: We are not perfect. But we are not called to be perfect. We are called to love our neighbor, and to recognize when our attempts at love have gone astray. We are called to live deeply, fully, grounded in our own bodymind, and reaching out to the unique bodyminds of those who share this life with us.

ALL: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

Mary: Let us rejoice in the continued work of access! Let us rejoice that there are more ways than we know to love one another! Let us be bold, creative, thoughtful, empathetic, and faithful. Let us rejoice, knowing there is yet more wisdom to learn on this journey of access.

ALL: God, draw us closer to Access and Love.

Pastor Mak: Amen, and go in peace.

Song Of Parting

Marshall Davies

Sing! # 213 "Wherever You Go"

Wherever you go, God is with you;
Wherever you go, God is there.

Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
You are in God's care.

Wherever we go, God is with us;
Wherever we go, God is there.
Wherever we go,
Whatever we do,
We are in God's care.

Postlude

Marshall Davies