



Worship Service for November 17, 2024 Transgender Day Of Remembrance

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Amie Friday
Welcome	Pastor Felix
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix
Call to Worship	Amie Friday

LEADER: 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 surrounding 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 and hope when it is hard
to find.**

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

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

LEADER: for the genders whose expressions were looked
down upon by the stare of society.

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

***Congregational Song**

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 eternal care.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Gathering Prayer

Amie Friday

ALL: God, full of mercy, bless the souls of those we hold dear in our hearts on this Transgender Day of Remembrance. We pray for the strength to carry on their love, vision, and bravery. We remember the thousands more who have taken their own lives.

We pray for resolve to root out the injustice, ignorance, and cruelty they suffered. 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, and many holy expressions. Blessed are they, who have allowed their divine image to shine in the world.

Amen.

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.

Contemporary Witness

Amie Friday

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

Executive Director of the TransGender Education
Association of Greater Washington DC.

Reflection

“Creating a New Humanity”

Pastor Felix

In Memoriam -- Honoring the Lives Taken from Us

Cii-jayy Jones & Bill Hoffman

Special Music Aimee Broadhurst & Mark Vines (video)
“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

(We Remember Them, adapted from the Jewish Book of Prayer)

Mary Davis & Pam Conyne (formerly Laham)

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

Amen

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #588 "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

Let justice flow like streams
Of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life,
Abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on
As others' cares we heed,
An ever flowing stream of faith
Translated into deed.

So may God's plumb line, straight,
Define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade
This world our whole life through.

Benediction

Pastor Felix

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Amie & Shelby-Mak Friday

Sound: Cathy Normand

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Mary Davis

YouTube Host: Mary Lowell

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