



Worship Service for November 23, 2025 Transgender Day Of Remembrance

Prelude	Marshall Davies
Chiming of the Hour	Cii-jayy Jones
Welcome	Pastor Felix Carrión
Centering Moment	Pastor Felix Carrión
Announcements	Cii-Jayy Jones
Call to Worship	Cii-jayy Jones

LEADER: God of Many Names and Abundant Love,

**ALL: broaden our imagination to see you in the
faces of everyone we meet.**

LEADER: Spirit of Life – open our hearts to the community of
souls all around us.

**ALL: Allow our hearts to open to the miracle of
being.**

LEADER: Strengthen our voices so that they may serve
others.

ALL: Stir in us compassion and hope.

LEADER: God of Many Names and Abundant Love,

**ALL: we 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 stares of society.

**ALL: May our love and commitment to creating a
freer world empower us to find the love and hope
they need to live freely and joyfully.**

***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:

Open our thoughtful 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:
Comfort 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:
Open our angry 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:

Nourish our hungry hearts.

Pray, pray, pray.

Pray, pray, pray.

Gathering Prayer

Cii-jayy Jones

ALL: God, 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 the resolve to root out injustice, ignorance, and cruelty. And we pray that all those who perpetrate hate and violence will 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.

Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

Matthew 17: 1 - 7

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.”

Contemporary Witness

Cii-jayy Jones

I AM

By Emma Chattin

*Executive Director of the TransGender Education
Association
of Greater Washington, DC*

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.

Reflection

Pastor Felix Carrión

"These Are My Beloved: With Them I Am Well Pleased"

In Memoriam -- Honoring the Lives Taken from Us

Cii-jayy Jones & Bill Hoffman

Special Music

Plymouth Choir

"For Those Who Suffered"

For those who suffered lives of silent shame,
for those who pleasure held their deepest pain:
Dry off their cheeks, wipe up their tears.
Grant them, God eternal joy. O Grant them, God, eternal joy.

For those who found no peace in worship pews,
For those who suffered word and pow'r abused:
Make them your saints and draw them near.
Grant them, God eternal peace. O Grant them, God, eternal
peace.

For those who tossed on dark and restless nights,
For those who slumbered under alley lights:
Lay them to rest, their battles fought.
Grant them, God eternal sleep. O Grant them, God, eternal
sleep.

For those who bear unwanted scars on skins,

For those who know no name for love but sin:

God, bless these wounds, O holy scars!

Grant them, God eternal life. O Grant them, God, eternal life.

**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
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

Responsive Reading Pastor Felix Carrión & Congregation (We Remember Them, adapted from the Jewish Book of Prayer)

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.

Trans Joys

Cii-jayy Jones

Invitation to Offering

Cii-jayy Jones

Trans Voices Houston

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

Cii-jayy Jones

ALL: Gracious One, thank you for the blessings of this and all our days. Accept, we pray, not just these gifts we bring but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you do for us. May they serve your purpose and will, spreading love and unity throughout our community.

Amen.

***Congregational Song**

Congregation

"Blest Be the Holy Other"

Blest be the Holy other
who has loved and lost and grieved.
The strife imposed could not undo
God's love and grace received.

Blest be the Holy other
who's endured the worst of all
the ignorant and petty few
that would deny their call.

Blest be the Holy other
When the church has done then wrong.
God made us all, God made us all
to love and to belong.

Blest be the Holy other now
Whose sacred worth we know,
who teach us where and when and how
God's telling us to go.

Benediction

Pastor Felix Carrión

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Cii-jayy Jones

Sound: Mary Davis

Video: Sarah Bowman

Projector: Sylvia Ortiz

YouTube Host: Mary Lowell

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