



Worship Service for January 15, 2023

Prelude

Marshall Davies

Chiming of the Hour

Terri Sachnik

Praise & Worship Celebration

Congregation

Sing! # 178 "Here Are Our Hearts"

Here are our hearts.

Here are our hands.

Here are our lives.

Use them as You can.

Show us those who hurt.

Show us those in need.

Show us how to serve.

Teach us how to see.

Here are our hearts.

Here are our hands.

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Use them as You can.

Show us those who hurt.

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Show us how to serve.

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Welcome

Pastor Mak

Centering Moment

Pastor Mak

Call to Worship

Terri Sachnik

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.

***Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH # 12 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

I sing the mighty power of God
That made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad,
And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained
The sun to rule the day;

The moon shines full at God's command,
And all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God
That filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word,
And then pronounced them good.
Oh, how your wonders are displayed,
Wher-e'er I turn my eye:
If I survey the ground I tread,
Or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower
But makes your glory known.
The clouds arise and spread their showers
By order from your throne.
All life is but a gift from you
And ever in your care;
Wherever people gather
You, O God, are present there.

Biblical Witness

Terri Sachnik

The Gospel Of John 3:1 - 8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from

the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Contemporary Witness

Pastor Mak

“Engaging The Powers” by Water Wink; pg 164

Baptism marks the entry to a community committed to the transformative values articulated and incarnated by Jesus. The church has repeatedly betrayed these values. Yet its sole purpose for being is to begin living now the way the whole world is called to live ultimately, and to represent the promise of another reality that holds the human future.

Dying to the Powers is only the downside of rebirth, however. Rebirth is coming home to the universe, the rediscovery of beauty and of delight in the creation, the recovery of the capacity to love. It is the joy of belonging, of being a child of the Eternal.

Reflection

“Soul Rebirth”

Pastor Mak

Special Music

Mark Vines

“Only Hope”

There's a song that's inside of my soul
It's the one that I've tried to write over and over again
I'm awake in the infinite cold
But you sing to me over and over and over again
So I lay my head back down
And I lift my hands and pray
To be only yours I pray
To be only yours
I know now you're my only hope
Sing to me the song of the stars
Of your galaxy dancing and laughing and laughing again
When it feels like my dreams are so far
Sing to me of the plans that you have for me over again
So I lay my head back down
And I lift my hands and pray
To be only yours I pray
To be only yours I know now you're my only hope
I give you my destiny
I'm giving you all of me
I want your symphony
Singing in all that I am
At the top of my lungs

I'm giving it back
So I lay my head back down
And I lift my hands and pray
To be only yours I pray
To be only yours I pray
To be only yours I know now you're my only hope

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mak

Unison Prayer

Pastor Mak & Congregation

(Written by Parker J. Palmer)

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

Terri Sachnik

Plymouth's General Fund &
"The SpiritHouse Project" - 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

Terri Sachnik

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.

Liturgy for the Sacrament of Baptism

Presentation of Those Being Baptized

Invitation to Baptism

Pastor: Members and friends of Plymouth United Church, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

ALL: They were bringing children to Jesus for his blessing. The disciples didn't like this so they rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it."

Pastor: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them. Today we reach out to bless Dania, Brandon and Eve with the waters of baptism.

Filling the Font

The Narrative of Baptism

Blessing of the Water

Pastor: Water is everything. Water is life. We claim the joy of water and the way it sustains and nourishes us.

ALL: Let it sprinkle, pour, and flow upon all people that all may know each day the gift of God in water.

Pastor: The biblical stories also talk of the preciousness of water. These stories remind us that water is a blessing and the source and strength of life. Without it, humanity and all that is created could not survive.

ALL: Our stories remind us that God's way is the way of compassion and love. God's love, like a shower of rain in drought, awakens the sleeping seed within the soul and lures it to blossom.

Pastor: God's love, like a paddling pool, inspires the responsive love of children: jumping, splashing each other, and shivering with wet delight.

ALL: God's love, like a hot shower after a long day's work, cleanses and reawakens us.

Pastor: God's love, like waves crashing on the shore, breaks in and enfolds us, leaving us feeling vital and refreshed.

ALL: So let us give thanks for the watery images of God's love as we invite God's baptismal blessings for Dania, Brandon, and Eve.

Questions for the Family of Dania, Brandon, and Eve

Ritual of Baptism

Prayer

Baptismal Candle and Gifts

Presentation of Dania, Brandon, and Eve

***Hymn**

Congregation

Sing! # 195 "Children of God"

Children of God, let's love one another.
Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.
Love is a gift of God.

Let love be more than what we say.
Make it the way that we live each day. Oh oh

Children of God, let's love one another.
Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.
Love is a gift of God.

Now perfect love removes all fear.
By this we know God is always near. Oh oh

Children of God, let's love one another.

Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.
Love is a gift of God.

Let us bear witness to the Light,
Living in love, doing what is right. Oh oh

Children of God, let's love one another.
Love is a gift, a blessing of God.
Love one another, sisters and brothers.
Love is a gift
Love is a gift
Love is a gift of God

Benediction

Pastor Mak

Song Of Parting

Marshall Davies

Sing! 197 "La Paz Sea Contigo" (Peace Be With You)

La paz sea contigo
La paz sea contigo
May God's peace be with you,
Now and forever
La paz sea contigo

El amor sea contigo
El amor sea contigo

May God's love be with you,
Now and forever
El amor sea contigo

El espíritu sea contigo
El espíritu sea contigo
May God's Spirit be with you
Now and forever
El espíritu sea contigo

Postlude

Marshall Davies

Today's Worship Participants

Worship Leader: Terri Sachnik
Sound: Tony Trosclair
Video: Sarah Bowman
Projector: Lynette Lange

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