



## **Worship Service for September 24, 2023**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Paula McKnight
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>*Praise &amp; Worship Songs</b>	Congregation

“How Then Shall We Live”

In times like these, all hope seems lost as we wander  
through the wilderness;

In this disease, we're turned and tossed as our neighbors  
find new ways to oppress.

As we withstand the storm, will we be transformed so that  
one day truth may be restored?

Out of isolation, be the invitation into one love, one mind, of  
one accord.

We are starting again, though we bear the weight of all  
through which we've been;

As we journey down this road, we are called to carry on and  
share the load.

How then shall we gather? How then shall we lament?

How then shall we hope? How then shall we live?

We've drifted apart through time and space; how will we  
overcome the distance?

When fear rules hearts and hate is embraced, what chance  
do we have for coexistence?

What can we let go as we learn to grow as disciples for  
justice in Christ's way?

Seeking liberation in co-creation, we will breathe new life into  
each day.

We are starting again, though we bear the weight of all  
through which we've been;

As we journey down this road, we are called to carry on and  
share the load.

How then shall we gather? How then shall we lament?

How then shall we hope? How then shall we live?

**Announcements**

Paula McKnight

**Call to Worship**

Paula McKnight

LEADER: In the brightest of day, in the deepest of night,  
on the mountain, in the valley, in every place we find  
ourselves God touches us, and we are transformed.

**ALL: In this time, together, we invite God to open our  
eyes to the transformation of our lives and our  
congregation.**

LEADER: And through the change –we praise a God  
who is the author of transformation.

**ALL: This is the Holy One who brings us into new  
life. Therefore, we do not lose heart and take  
courage in what is being revealed and unfolding.**

**\*Praise & Worship Song**

Congregation

TNCH #391, “In the Midst of New Dimensions” vs. 1, 3, 5

In the midst of new dimensions,

in the face of changing ways,  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples  
wandering in their separate ways?

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever,  
now and evermore.

As we stand a world divided  
by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village,  
might envision wider dreams.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever,  
now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions  
cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit  
recreate the church again.

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,  
leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey  
now and ever, now and ever,  
now and evermore.

## Gathering Prayer

Paula McKnight

**ALL: O Holy One, as we stand in awe of your grace and mercy, we invite you to be present amongst us. Thank you that you have made the transformative way of love known to us in Jesus. We pray that you would reveal the truth of your path to us so that we may walk it. May your love empower us for mission in our community and beyond. May we pour forth praise and thanksgiving as an expression of our worship and witness. We pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.**

## Biblical Witness

Pastor Felix

Romans 12:14 - 18

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,

persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

## **Contemporary Witness**

Paula McKnight

“At the Pace of Creation”

The Book of Awakening:

Having the Life You Want by Being Present to the Life  
You Have

Slowing how we think and feel and take in the world is directly related to being centered. The wisdom traditions all have some form of meditation or prayer that is aimed at slowing us into this center, where the very pace of creation breathes. When courageous enough to relax

our soul opens, the pace at which our mind thinks slows to the pace of at which our heart feels, and, amazingly, together, they unfold the rhythm with which our eyes can see the miracle waiting in all that is ordinary.

## **Reflection**

“Transformation”

## **Special Music**

“My Lighthouse”

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures You won't walk out.

Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

Whoa, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence You won't let go, in the questions Your truth You hold.

Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea. Whoa, You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse, (Whoa) shining in the darkness, I will follow You.

Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse (Whoa) I will trust the promise.

You will carry me safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore!

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll rise and sing.

My God's love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea. Whoa You are the peace in my troubled sea.



My lighthouse, my lighthouse, (Whoa) shining in the darkness, I will follow You.

Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse (Whoa) I will trust the promise.

You will carry me safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore!

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms.

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms. Hey!

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms.

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse (Whoa) shining in the darkness, I will follow You. Whoa, my lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise.

You carry me safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

Safe to shore.

## **Pastoral Prayer with Joys & Concerns**

Pastor Felix Carrión

## **Invitation to Offering**

Paula McKnight

The American Indian Center of 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**

Paula McKnight

**ALL: God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. So that whatever gift we bring to you might be an offer of worship before you, sanctified for the blessing of one and all. Amen.**

### **\*Praise & Worship Song**

The Faith We Sing #2130 "The Summons"

vs. 1, 4 & 5

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around?

Through my sight & touch & sound  
in you and you in me.

God, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.

In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow

in you and you in me.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**\*Song of Parting**

Congregation

Sing! #205 “Dance into Joy” vs. 4

So dance into joy with hands upraised.

Greet each new day as the holiest of days,  
and to your God sing great songs of praise.

To your God sing praise!

Weave now each one this web of light  
surrounding our world both day and night  
with healing love and inner peace.  
Joining together, joy will increase.

So dance into joy with hands upraised.

Greet each new day as the holiest of days,  
and to your God sing great songs of praise.

To your God sing praise!

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Sound: Tony Trosclair

Video: Mark Vines

Projector: Cathy Normand

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

**Plymouth United Church (UCC)**

5927 Louetta Road, Spring, Texas 77379

[pastor@plymouthunited.org](mailto:pastor@plymouthunited.org)

Moderator: Aimee Broadhurst

281-414-5487

[moderator@plymouthunited.org](mailto:moderator@plymouthunited.org)

Interim Office Manager: Amie Friday

281-251-8147

[officemanager@plymouthunited.org](mailto:officemanager@plymouthunited.org)

Music Director: Dr. Marshall Davies

[musicdirector@plymouthunited.org](mailto:musicdirector@plymouthunited.org)