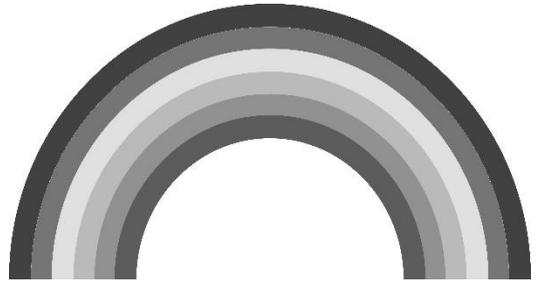


Inclusion Worship

April 24, 2022

Leader/All



GATHERING

Call to Worship

When you dream, what do you dream of?

We dream of children who know love and churches with open doors. We dream of rest and sunny days.

When you dream, what do you dream of?

**We dream of peace without walls,
And equity for all people.**

When you dream, what do you dream of?

**We dream of milk and honey, food on tables, and an end to suffering.
We dream of the Church of Jesus Christ serving all God's people.**

Family of God, this morning, we dream together. This morning, we worship together. For there is nothing on heaven or on earth strong enough to unravel God's dreams for all. Let us worship Holy God. **Amen.**

Hymn – ELW #306 Come, Beloved of the Maker

Welcome & Introduction to Inclusion Sunday

Confession

God of dreamers, we are often oblivious to the ways in which we oppress and are complicity in the oppression of our neighbors. We have sinned through our actions and our lack of action. Our sins are unique and varied and yet we are all consumed by the same fire of sinfulness. We have not loved and welcomed the LGBTQIA+ community and other marginalized communities into the church with open arms and a mindset of reimagining. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may live and serve you in newness of life in your holy name.

When we have had power, we forgot what it is for.

We raised ourselves further up.

We have not used our gifts to speak truth to power in love,
to lift up the voices of those beaten down.

When we have been weak, we have let ourselves be told we are broken beyond repair, and forgot the promise that each of us is Your child, made in Your image.

We have listened to the siren song of the world that says what we get is what we deserve.

Open our eyes to our neighbors who are near to us, and those who are far away.

Heal our hearts. Restore our trust.

Build our human community.

Hear the good news! God has not watched from far way, but has come near to be with us, to free us from our pain, and to offer us new life. God has declared that we are not separate, but children of one family, united in Jesus our Lord. **Amen. Alleluia!**

Prayer of the Day

Good and gracious God, **you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of unwelcoming ways that lead to exclusion in the church. Empower us to take steps toward including the diversity of God's creation in the life and work of the church. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

WORD

A Word for All God's Children – Our Faith Stories

Psalm 139:1-18 – see *insert*

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (MSG) – see *insert*

Message – Kim Nofsinger and Chris Zindorf

Hymn of the Day – ELW #641 All Are Welcome

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need.

Spirit of Life who paints the skies in every hue, we praise you for morning and night, for dawn and dusk, and for every moment in between. We praise you for the vibrant, loud, and serene colors of creation. We revel in the ever-changing of the seasons. We thank you for the infinite and as-yet undiscovered diversity of your creatures, of galaxies beyond our imagining. Teach us to feel awe again. Teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the People, you made us in your image and you call us good. Silence voices of shame and hatred – including the ones in our own heads – and inspire us to love ourselves and one another the way you so desperately, passionately, and deeply love us. Teach us a fondness and delight for our bodies as we are called to live in them, in

all of their holy, messy, fabulous glory. Teach us to love neighbors who live in different skin. To love intelligences and abilities of all kinds, and loving-kindness most of all. Make us bold in our proclamation that the lives, loves, and gifts of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Ace, Queer, Intersex, Native, Black, Brown, Incarcerated, Disabled, and Migrant people matter to you, and so they matter to all of us – manifest in both word and deed. God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

O Great Healer, hear the cries of all who suffer. Those who suffer because of the rejection they have experience. Those who suffer due to cruelty of humanity. Those who suffer in any way in mind, body, or spirit. Today, we lift to you... God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, hear our dreams and our prayers for a world where faith, hope and love abide. Hear our prayer for a church where all are included. Hear our prayer that all might be welcome to your glorious table, the table that has no boundaries and is wide enough for all. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

MEAL

Offering

Members are encouraged to help support the mission and ministry of Peace. If you are visiting Peace, please be our guests. Your presence is a gift to our community.

And the Table Will Be Wide – by Jan Richardson

And the table will be wide.

And the welcome will be wide.

And the arms will open wide to gather us in.

And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough.

And we will come unhindered and free.

And our aching will be met with bread.

And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.

And we will turn toward each other without fear.

And we will give up our appetite for despair.

And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world.

And we will become drink for those who thirst.

And the blessed will become the blessing.

And everywhere will be the feast.

The Lord's Prayer – ELW page 112

Distribution of Holy Communion

All who believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to receive the gift of this meal. You are welcome no matter who you are, where you've been or what you've done. This is God's gift of grace for you. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available along with the bread and wine. Please ask the server if this is your preference. Those who do not commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Blessing & Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all as we are strengthened with the richness of your grace. In your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

God invites us into Their future, where the one who makes all things new has made Their home among us. We are called and chosen, together embraced by God in whom tears, mourning, crying, pain, oppression unwelcome, and even death will be no more. Remember God's future of a re-imagined church, for this is our story.

May the God of dreamers and visionaries bless you and keep you.

May the Holy Parent ignite the fires of advocacy in your heart.

May the Spirit place the scroll of knowledge on your tongue in tough conversations.

May the Son walk with you as you march with your queer siblings. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn – ELW #841 Lift Every Voice & Sing v 1

Dismissal

Go out into the world and shout from the rooftops that
All means all! Thanks be to God.

We are growing disciples who...**Welcome, Worship and Walk with Christ.**