

October 1st, 2023

Reflections on Inclusivity

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite....Nelson Mandela

Order of Worship

*(*Please rise in body and/or spirit)*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Setting by Wilbur Held

Candle Lighting

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather here, where God would teach us:

**People: so we may learn to be more compassionate,
so we may be taught how to be more loving.**

Leader: We gather here, where Jesus would teach us

**People: the wisdom to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge,
the language of hope so we may speak to all.**

Leader: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom,

**People: so we might know how to share grace,
so we would learn to welcome all to this Table.**

***Hymn #756** O God of Every Nation

music page 5

Call to Confession

Leader: We pray together, confessing our resistance to God's will, and seeking the joy that comes with aligning our hearts with God's.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious and Merciful God, you welcome each and every person who comes to you. It brings you joy to be the gathering place for

your people of every kind, reflecting the whole diversity of the human community. You give us an image of heaven to look forward to filled with people that fit every description, singing and praising you for being united in this glorious eternal fellowship. We confess that we have quite far to go for that image to come to life. We routinely exclude people different than ourselves. When another has a different experience of life than what we've had and what we consider normal, we bristle and seek to protect our narrow understanding, rather than be enriched by new perspectives. We are sorry, Lord, for working against you and the joy you take in all people. Open our hearts to share joy. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie, kyrie eleison, (Lord, have mercy)

Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Christe, Christe eleison, (Christ, have mercy)

Christe, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison,

Kyrie, kyrie eleison, eleison.

Moment for Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this Good News: In Christ, we are united with each of God's children. What we have done to sever those bonds of love can be healed. What has torn us apart, Christ can sew back together. Whatever is broken by sin can be restored. God is serious about these commitments to us. We are asked in return to be serious about placing our faith in Christ, to fully entrust our lives to the Lord, so that we can experience the fullness of God's reconciling love. Seize the opportunity, and find your life changed.

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 56:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God!**

Children's Message

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church and The Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace

***Hymn #753** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

music page 6

Second Scripture Lesson Galatians 3:26-28

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

Sermon "The Gospel of Ever-expanding Inclusion"

Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer continues...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Chords: F, C, F, B^b, C, F, (A), (D/F[#]), (F[#]m), (G), (A), (Bm), C, F/A, Am, B^b, C, Dm, (G), B^b, (D), F, (A), (Bm), C, Dm, (Em7), Gm7, (A), (Dsus), C, Fsus, (D), F

O God of Every Nation

756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis

D Bm A7 D Em A7

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

D Bm G Em A7

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in

Em A7 Em7 A7

there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in

Em A7 D 1 2, 4 (Fine)

where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

G Em D Bm

3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so

Em A7 D A7 D D7

much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

G Em F#m Bm

un-der-stood as to un-der-stand, to be

E E7 A E A A7

loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

God, In Our Church's Teaching

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2021

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. God, in our chur-ch's teach-ing, may we be bold and clear;
2. I - sai - ah bold-ly told us you hate our wor-ship ways
3. May these be cru-cial les - sons we teach the old and young:
4. O God, we grieve the vio-lence, ho-mo-pho-bia and hate;

may it be-come our prac - tice to coun - ter hate and fear.
when we ig-nore in - jus - tice and sim - ply of - fer praise.
that ra-cist ways are e - vil, that sex - ist ways are wrong.
we grieve our own in-dif-ference— our speak-ing out too late.

We've said that Je - sus' mes - sage is one that's filled with love,
And Je - sus gave a warn-ing: When we— in sin and pride—
In Sun-day schools and pul-pits, may this be what we speak:
God, in our chur-ch's wit - ness, may we say loud and clear:

and yet our sweep-ing state - ments are clear - ly not e - nough.
re - fuse to wel-come oth - ers, we turn our Lord a - side.
God made each per - son pre - cious, be - lov - ed and u - nique.
We wel-come ev - ery neigh - bor. We work for jus - tice here.

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