

PRELUDE

CALL to WORSHIP ~

*Our Real Work*

by Wendell Berry

It may be that when we no longer know what to do,

We have come to our real work;

And that when we no longer know which way to go,

We have begun our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled, bewildered, is not employed.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

OPENING PRAYER

Persistent, patient, ever-present God, hear our prayers that pour forth from our hearts this morning. In the span of a few seconds, we can be all over the emotional map traveling from fear to frustration to resilience to sensing the beauty of creation. We have whispered the unanswerable question the Psalmist prayed, “How long, O God?” How long for isolating and distancing ourselves? How long for shelves to be bear? How long for our children, grandchild to be out of school or only visiting our loved ones in nursing homes through knocking on windows? We pause for a moment for each person to ask prayerfully the, “How long” question that sits in our souls right now.

*Silent prayer.*

We long for reminders and reassurances that we are not alone. Phone calls, Skype, Zoom Rooms, and emails that connect us. Neighbors we pass on our walks where we can wave our, “Hellos”. The ruby red robin and bunny that we see from our lanais. In the midst of shifting sands and streams of information, we thirst for moments of hope. We pause for a moment for each person to name prayerfully a sign of hope that stirred our souls this past week.

*Silent prayer.*

Enfold and hold us. Help us behold and be-held by Your love. Grant us Your wisdom; grant us Your Courage; for the living of these days.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;

Crown your ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s way,

From the fears that long have bound us – free our hearts for faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

A READING from PSALM 42

from Psalms Now by Leslie Brandt

## OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Mark 14:3-9

<sup>3</sup>While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup>But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup>For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”

## SERMON

### MUSICAL INTERLUDE

*A Woman Came Who Did Not Count the Cost*

*Sung Refrain:*

*O God, you are the Anointing One  
Who does not count your passion's cost,  
And when we gather you will spill  
The sweetness of your grace on us.*

### PASTORAL PRAYER & SUNG LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

May you see the light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark.  
May you always hear e'en in the hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark.  
When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone.  
May you always remember, when the shadows fall, you do not walk alone.