

**October 10, 2021**

**11 A.M.**

Flowers are given by **Michael & Jim Cross** to the glory of God and in celebration of their 6<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and by Mary Kukainis, “Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, **Robert Procter!**”

To the Celebration Fund in honor of **Lee Brockmann's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**, from her best friend,  
Fred.

PRELUDE *Wayfaring Stranger* (American Spiritual) Mark Hayes

INVITATION: Read by Dick Miller

One: God is calling us out. Out of the places we hide; out of insecurity; out of shame; out from under that which silences love and justice.

**All: Come out, people of God!**

One: Though we may be afraid; though we will be at risk

**All: God calls us to courage!**

One: Our God is a God of resurrection. Of new life after devastation. Of hope in the grip of evil. And so we dare to proclaim, with pride and faith, our truths:

**All: We believe in the power of love. We believe in solidarity with the suffering. We believe we are each valuable. We believe that our togetherness is transformative.**

One: The world is longing for Holy truths that reveal, voices that speak real words of hope.

**All: Come out, people of God!**

\*OPENING HYMN *Testament to Love* text: Amanda Udis-Kessler  
tune: Azmon

**I come today to celebrate the moment when I knew  
The grace that fills the universe is waiting for me too.**

**My soul in fearful exile ached, for nothing more than home  
But every new rejection left me broken and alone.**

**And in that lonely moment I began to understand,  
I knew I was accepted for exactly who I am.**

**My life is now a testament to love that won't let go,  
A love that makes demands on me to give and trust and grow.**

**Each day I sing my song of thanks and offer up my praise  
For love that holds me closely in its deep abiding place.**

OPENING PRAYER Read by John Ristow  
*For National Coming Out Day, this morning's litany is based on a prayer offered by the Episcopal Church's first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, during President Barak Obama's inauguration celebrations:*

One: O God of our many understandings, we pray that you will...

**All: Bless us with tears –**

One: For a world in which over a billion people exist on less than a dollar a day, where

young women from many lands are beaten for wanting an education, and thousands die daily from malnutrition and illness.

**All: Bless us with anger –**

One: At discrimination, at home and abroad, against refugees and immigrants, women, people of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

**All: Bless us with discomfort -**

One: At the easy, simplistic “answers” we often prefer to hear instead of the truth, about ourselves and the world, which we need to face if we are going to rise to the challenges of the future.

**All: Bless us with patience -**

One: And the knowledge that none of what ails us will be “fixed” anytime soon, and the understanding that we are all human beings.

**All: Bless us with humility -**

One: Open to understanding that our own needs must always be balanced with those of all our brothers and sisters.

**All: Bless us with freedom from mere tolerance -**

One: Replacing it with a genuine respect and warm embrace of our differences, and an understanding that in our diversity, we are stronger.

**All: Bless us with compassion and generosity -**

One: Remembering that every religion’s God judges us by the way we care for all the members of our human community.

**All: Amen.**

HYMN

*You Are Mine*

David Haas

**I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.**

**You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice.**

**Be still and know I am here.**

**I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.**

**In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.**

**Come and rest in me.**

*Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.*

*Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

**I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.**

**All the blind will see; the lame will all run free,**

**And all will know my name.**

*Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.*

*Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

**I am the Word that leads all to freedom; I am the peace the world cannot give.**

**I will call your name, embracing all your pain.**

**Stand up, now and walk and live!**

*Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.*

*Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.*

RESPONSIVE READING:

Read by Steve Horowitz

One: Each of us were created by You, Oh God, with worth, imbued with dignity.

**All: We were created to represent Your love in the world.**

One: We bring together diverse experiences, vast manifestations of how love looks.

**All: Our families are different, yet each strives to represent the many ways Your people live and love.**

One: Our lives are enriched when LGBTQ+ persons dare to come out of places of fear, of humiliation, of oppression and find welcome and affirmation in our churches and communities.

**All: Just as our lives are enriched when Blacks, Latinos, Women, Indigenous Neighbors and all others who have been oppressed dare to come out and are affirmed.**

One: Your words, shared in scripture, call us to be a people of peace, of justice, of love.

**All: For truly, we all suffer when any LGBTQ+ person, or any person, is oppressed or shamed**

One: When justice is denied to any of us, justice is denied to all of us

**All: Until we are all free, none of us can be truly free.**

One: Thus, we continue to work to build a world where all Your people are affirmed with love.

**All: Celebrating our sexual and gender diversity blesses us, brings joy in our lives, blessings and joy given by and through You.**

**All: In Your name, Divine Maker, and filled with Your Holy Spirit. We pledge to go out and share these, Your blessings, in our community and in our world.**

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1:10-11, 2:1-10

Read by Barbara Shaver

<sup>10</sup>Hannah was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup>She made this vow: “O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.” Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. <sup>2</sup>“There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. <sup>3</sup>Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. <sup>4</sup>The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. <sup>5</sup>Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. <sup>6</sup>The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. <sup>7</sup>The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. <sup>8</sup>He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world. <sup>9</sup>“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. <sup>10</sup>The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.”

SERMON

*Calling Sermon Series: Praying Out!*

ANTHEM

*There Has to be a Song*

Andrea Ramsey

TESTIMONY

Sara Little

LORD'S PRAYER & PASTORAL 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

*Sing a New World Into Being*

Mary Louise Bringle

Tune: Hymn to Joy

**Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.  
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream.  
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.  
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song.**

**Sing a new world into being, where each gender, class, and race.  
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace.  
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.  
Sing a new world into being, risk transforming heart and mind.**

**Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.  
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom.  
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.**

**Sing a new world into being, Join the ancient prophets' cry.  
For a time of health and plenty, when all tears have been wiped dry.  
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.  
Sing a new world into being, live the promise you believe.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Postlude in C*

Arthur Foote

**Greeters:** Chuck Jarman & Phil Swain  
**Liturgist:** Dick Miller, John Ristow, Steve Horowitz, and Barbara Shaver  
**Fellowship:** COLLAGE (LGBTQ support and ally group)  
**Bus Driver:** Jerry Oliver