

Live on Zoom 10 AM
Coffee hour to follow worship
Code: 229508663
PW: 056996

"Women's Ways: History, Culture, and Contemporary Issues of Women" with guest Dee Sweet
March 14, 2021

Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning "the people") People, and we honor their elders both past and present.

Prelude/Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Voice 1: We celebrate women's voices, proclaiming wisdom.

Voice 2: We honor women's lives, forging new paths.

Voice 1: We remember women's faith, strong amid challenge.

Voice 2: We anticipate women's vision, calling us into the future.

Voice 1 & 2: Past, present, and future, our lives join with women everywhere.

VOICE #1

Because we are free women, born of free women, who are born of free women, back as far as time begins, we celebrate your freedom. Because we are wise women, born of wise women, who are born of wise women, we celebrate your wisdom. Because we are strong women, born of strong women, who are born of strong women, we celebrate your strength. Because we are magical women, born of magical women, who are born of magical women, we celebrate your magic.

VOICE #2

My sisters, we are gathered here to speak your names. We are here because we are your daughters as surely as if you had conceived us, nurtured us, carried us in your wombs, and then sent us out into the world to make our mark and see what we see, and be what we be, but better, truer, deeper, because of the shining example of your own incandescent lives.

VOICE #1

We are here because you taught us that sisterspeak can continue to be our native tongue, no matter how many languages we learn as we move about as citizens of the world, and of the ever-evolving universe.

We are here to speak your names because of the way you made for us. Because of the prayers you prayed for us.

VOICE #2

We are the ones you conjured up, hoping we would have strength enough, and discipline enough, and talent enough, and nerve enough to step into the light when it turned in our direction, and just smile awhile.

VOICE #1

We are the ones you hoped would make you proud because all of our hard work makes all of yours part of something better, truer, deeper. Something that lights the way ahead like a lamp unto our feet, as steady as the unforgettable beat of our collective heart.

VOICE #1 & #2

We speak your names. We speak your names. We speak your names.

(Pearl Cleage)

Gathering Hymn #641 vs. 1&5 ELW "All Are Welcome"

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions: *(refrain)*

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome all are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *(refrain)*

Greeting

The Love of Christ Jesus is with you always. **And also with you.**



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos que a - ma el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo - ple. Glo - ry to God.

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

1st Reading Acts 18:24-26

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately.

(after the reading) Assistant: The word of Life. **People: Thanks be to God.**

2nd Reading Proverbs 8:22-31 The Message

“God sovereignly made me—the first, the basic—
before he did anything else.
I was brought into being a long time ago,
well before Earth got its start.
I arrived on the scene before Ocean,
yes, even before Springs and Rivers and Lakes.
Before Mountains were sculpted and Hills took shape,
I was already there, newborn;
Long before God stretched out Earth’s Horizons,
and tended to the minute details of Soil and Weather,
And set Sky firmly in place,
I was there.
When he mapped and gave borders to wild Ocean,
built the vast vault of Heaven,
and installed the fountains that fed Ocean,
When he drew a boundary for Sea,
posted a sign that said no trespassing,
And then staked out Earth’s Foundations,
I was right there with him, making sure everything fit.
Day after day I was there, with my joyful applause,
always enjoying his company,
Delighted with the world of things and creatures,
happily celebrating the human family.

Words of Reflection: "Women’s Ways: History, Culture, and Contemporary Issues" with guest Dee Sweet

Hymn of the Day# 419 vs 1 & 2 ELW *“For All the Faithful Women”*

For all the faithful women who served in days of old
To you shall thanks be given, to all their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save."

O God, for saints and servants, those named and those unknown
In whom through all the ages Your light of glory shone,
We offer glad thanksgiving and fervent prayer we raise
That faithful in Your service, our lives may sing Your praise.

Creed Statement

We believe in Creator, **Father-Mother Spirit, who called the world and all that is in it, into being, who spoke the creative-forming word, and all came forth who created women and men and set them free to live in love, in obedience to the will of supreme love and in community with all.**

We believe in Creator, Son and Brother, who, because of love beyond our understanding, love for creation, entered the world to share our humanity, to rejoice and to despair; to set before us the paths of life and death, and walk them with us; to be rejected and die, but finally to conquer death and bind the world to himself for all time.

We believe in Creator, In-Dwelling Spirit, who invites us into community, that we may through faith and that community of oneness, experience uplifting and sustaining grace; that we may fulfill our human responsibility to reach out to our neighbor, whoever that may be; that we may rejoice in the constant nature of creation and the wondrous joy of life itself.

We believe in Creator, whose word teaches us that all things grow together, the Circle of Life; that the paths of life and death, good and evil, too often come together, that choices are not clearly defined; but that we confidently and responsibly tread the path we choose and only the true One can be our judge.

We believe in Creator, who is present and working in this world through all creation. AMEN

Prayers of Intercession

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God.

For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us, that the love of God may grow within.

That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace.

May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who serve in harms way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life.

May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who suffer from any illness or disease—of mind, body, or spirit...especially Sheryl, Wally and Colleen, Bill, Ruthann, Beverly, Chuck, Wilma, Barb, Gene, "Tiny", Pavel, Alla, Oliver and Victoria, & friends and family of Bill Lundberg, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—health as only you, O God, can bring.

May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.

Remember your beloved indigenous children, Creator; remember the grandmothers, mothers, sister, aunts, partners, and friends who have been viciously taken from their communities. Remember loved ones who miss them; remember the faithful who have continually prayed to you and join our prayers with them.

May your love, be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen.

The Peace

As a community let us embrace the ongoing work of being reconciled.

God makes peace within us. Let us claim it.

God makes peace between us. Let us share it.

Let us greet each other as a sign of God's peace, love, forgiveness and grace.



Offering Prayer

Lord of our life and of our love, the path to you is straight, may we proclaim a message that is exemplified by our generosity, our kindness, and our love. In Jesus way we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now we say the Nez Perce version of the Lord's Prayer:

Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief, In the most high place whose home is everywhere, Even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever You want done let it be done everywhere. Give us Your gift of bread day by day. Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil, For everything belongs to You. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen

(Written by Hattie Corbett Enos -Nez Perce Elder)

Announcements

Litany of Sending

In the spirit of the women who survived the middle passage, withstood and overcame the oppression of enslavement,
We go forth, heading North.

In the spirit of women who dared obstacles and challenged unjust barriers and forged new peoples in new lands,
We go forth, heading South

In the spirit of women who refused to be browbeaten and held back and opened new paths for others to follow,
We go forth, heading East.

In the spirit of women who refused to be shut out and who demolished boundaries to open new spaces for sisters unborn,
We go forth, heading West.

We go forth, moving in all directions, moving at the directive of the Holy One, moving boldly and courageously in the assurance of divine guidance, anointing presence, and enabling power; in the Spirit not only of our ancestors in the sisterhood, but at the direction of Sistah Wisdom, Sofia, who calls each and all to encourage her for the sake of God's glory.

We go forth!

We go forth!

Thanks be to God!

(By Dr. Gennifer B. Brooks Ernest and Bernice Styberg)

Blessing

May we find our roots in God's steady grace.

May nourishment flow from sweet waters of compassion.

May we stand tall with strength and perseverance.

May the green gift of hope be our instinct and proclamation.

May we bless and be blessed in each season of this life. Amen.

(by Keri Wehlander)

Sending Song #334 ELW vs 1, 3 Lent 5 ELW "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

Tree of life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn,
Though you die in all of history,
Still you rise with every morn,
Still you rise with every morn.

Christ you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
We the river you the sea,
We the river you the sea

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
Hold us close though each tomorrow,
Love as near as every breath.
Love as near as every breath.

DISMISSAL

We have honored Christ our brother and chief. Sisters and Brothers, go in peace and love. **Thanks be to God.**