

Sunday August 29, 2021
Arise My Love

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship (*Song of Solomon 2: 8-13*)

Leader: Hear the voice of the Beloved,
who comes leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills;

**People: Our Beloved, like a gazelle or a young deer,
stands behind our wall, gazing at the windows,
Beloved speaks and calls to us:**

Leader: "Arise, my love, my dear one, and come away;
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

People: The flowers appear on the earth;

Leader: The time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**People: The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.**

Unison: Arise, O love, O dear one, and join me."

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**Creator God,
You have loved us passionately into being.
We come today seeking your presence
and to know we are your beloved!
Enter our sanctuary and enter our hearts
that we may look into your loving gaze
and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us.
Let our love for you reflect and mirror your perfect love
as we gather as your Beloved Community.**

Hymn #172: Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Susan Breon

1) Jesus calls us, o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
Day by day that voice still calls us,
saying, "Christian, follow me."

2) As of old, Saint Andrew heard it
by the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3) Jesus calls us from the worship
of the treasures we adore,
From each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4) In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
Jesus calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."

5) Jesus calls us! By your mercies,
Savior, may we hear your call,
Give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Prayer of Confession Unison

**Dear God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only.
You call us to love the world with your passion,
and to let that love be expressed in justice, forgiveness, peace.
Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear
and do not let your transforming grace
open us to the world you cherish.
Forgive us when we honor you only with our lips
and not with our actions.**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Holy One, in Christ you have shown us the way into your Beloved Community of mercy, love, and peace, in which you are making all things new.
We come to affirm our covenant and sacred promise to be in loving relationship with you.
Thank you for giving us life.
Open us, body, mind, and spirit to your truth.
Fill us with your grace so we can fall in love with your world and offer—and experience—forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Jim Miers

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (NIV)

⁸ Listen! My beloved!
Look! Here he comes,
leaping across the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
⁹ My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look! There he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattice.
¹⁰ My beloved spoke and said to me,
"Arise, my darling,
my beautiful one, come with me.
¹¹ See! The winter is past;
the rains are over and gone.
¹² Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves
is heard in our land.
¹³ The fig tree forms its early fruit;
the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling;
my beautiful one, come with me."

Special Music

Susan Breon

Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1-8 (NIV)

1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus

2 and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.

4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

6 He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

7 They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Arise My Love

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Unison

Offering Invitation

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift is from above." (*James 1:17*)
Thank you for the generosity within us that comes from you.
Fill us with the hope of young love.
May we give generously to your church.

Offering and Dedication Unison

**Bless our gifts today God as our means to bless life. May we know there is
no greater calling in life but to encourage love in all we do.**

Benediction Unison

**We will go back into the world assured of God's love for us all.
We will go back into the world with joy and energy to create God's Beloved
Community wherever we are.**