

Sunday January 16, 2022
You Shall Be Called By a New Name

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Our Mother-Father God has made us to be One Body with many members.

People: United and uniting. This is our calling.

Leader: God calls us to share our diverse gifts activated by the one and same Spirit.

People: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

Leader: God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

People: United and uniting. This is our worship.

Leader: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to create the Beloved Community.

People: We're called to birth this Beloved community. We cherish this opportunity of grace and love.

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**O God, all people are your Beloved,
across races, nationalities, religions, gender identities, sexual
orientations, and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.**

We are all manifestations of your image.

***We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality
and tied to a single garment of destiny.***

**You call us into your unending work
of justice, peace and love.**

Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity

that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty.

Strengthen us with your steadfast love and

**transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.
Under the shadow of your wings in this hour
may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.
We ask this, inspired by the example
of your disciple, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and so many
others who bore hope and bear witness to your dream
of the Beloved Community. In the name Jesus' we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #472: Precious Lord, Take My Hand
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Tom Gill

- 1) Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Refrain: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

- 2) When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall: [Refrain]
- 3) When the shadows appear and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: [Refrain]

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

**O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community
which looks to the common good; privileges all equally,
and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of
all. Yet we focus on our differences. Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for
justice. Perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their
struggle for full human life.
For it is not solely hateful words and actions,
but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression. Perhaps our
sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness. The work of
peace and justice overwhelms us at times and to build with God the
Beloved Community seems impossible and we grow weary. Have mercy on
us God!**

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, God is at work in us and with us! God has promised:

Pastor: "I will not keep silent and I will not rest
until the vindication of my beloved people
shines out like the dawn and their salvation like a burning torch.
My people shall no more be termed 'forsaken'
and their land shall no more be termed 'desolate.'"
We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name:
"My delight is in them."

**Unison: Thank you, God for delighting in us even now,
for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness,
for empowering our work
and inviting us once again
to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Jan Derry

Isaiah 62:1-5 (NRSV)

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Special Music

Tom Gill

Gospel Reading

John 2:1-11 (NSRV)

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. 2 Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." 6 Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. 7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. 8 He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. 9 When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: You Shall Be Called By a New Name

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #510 Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You (verses 1, 2 and 4)

- 1) Grant us wisdom to perceive you, hearts awakened to receive you, minds alert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mercy, hear us.
- 2) Grant us faithfulness in praying, strength to keep our souls from straying, sense to cease from disobeying, God of mercy, hear us.
- 4) Grant us courage to proclaim you, Savior of our lives we name you! May our actions never shame you; God of mercy, hear us.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

Brothers and sisters, who we are and yet becoming as individuals shows God's presence in the world.

That divine presence is reflected even more fully, powerfully, and transformatively as we unite in Beloved Community.

Let us bring ourselves, our gifts, and our resources together that God may be glorified.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**O God, we commit to use all our gifts
–wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing,
working of miracles, prophecy, discernment,
tongues, administration, hospitality,
and finances–
in the service of acting as co-workers
with you and each other for peace and
justice to flow like a mighty stream.**

Benediction **Unison**

**Let us go forth to celebrate and strengthen
our inescapable network of mutuality,
and become *the radiant hope* needed in the world.
As we go forth in this mutuality,
may we experience our God rejoicing over us and with us.
Let us go forth confident that
*unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. Amen!***