

# Liturgy for MYC 2017

## *A MISSING PEACE*

Theta (weeks 3-4)

By: Lisle Gwynn Garrity

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### MONDAY WORSHIP

#### PROCESSIONAL

Song during processional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU>

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

**JP 1:** You may remain seated as we invite you to embody our call to worship as you are prompted. Let us worship God with our whole hearts, bodies, and minds.

**JP 2:** Friends, I invite you to wiggle your toes.  
Gently roll your ankles, and let the tension go.  
And if you have dust on your feet,  
shake it off, for here you are clean.

**JP 1:** And now, I invite you to flex your legs.  
I invite you to touch your knees, wiggle, and stretch.  
Recollect any times you stood on holy ground,  
or moments when you stood up for one who needed you around.

**JP 2:** Now, I invite you to open your hands.  
Stretch your fingers wide and close them again.  
Notice that there are no holes in your palms,  
and remember that, ultimately, love has won.

**JP 1:** And now, brothers and sisters, take a deep breath.  
For we are in sacred space—here we are kept.  
You belong to me, and I belong to you.  
So let us prepare our hearts to receive God’s peace and truth.<sup>1</sup>

#### Song

#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from prayer written by Sarah Are, printed in “Maundy Thursday Order of Worship,” A Sanctified Art, LLC. 2017.

**JP 3:** After Jesus died, he appeared to some of his disciples and showed them the wounds in his hands and side. But there was one disciple, Thomas, who wasn't there to see it for himself. When the disciples told him of their encounter with the risen Jesus, Thomas refused to believe them, saying, "Unless I see his hands and put my fingers in his wounds, I can't believe you."

And can we blame him? Don't we too believe only in what we've seen with our own eyes? Don't we, too, live in a world that demands evidence and proof and certainty? Don't we too want our own personal encounters with Jesus before we can claim him as God?

**All: Yes, we doubt, we question, we turn away.**

In silent meditation, let us confess the ways we cling to certainty and proof over God's surprising grace.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*"Doubting Thomas" by Nickel Creek. Play worship video to begin prayer:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNSPHB-in5A>

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**JP 3:** "Blessed are those who believe and have not seen." Friends, we may not be able to see the holes in Jesus' hands or the wounds in his side, but we can see the waters of grace as they flow through our fingers, reminding us that God's love never runs dry. We can feel the promise of resurrection cupped in our very own hands.

Hear and believe this good news: no matter where we stand on our journey of faith, God's peace pours over us like a river, washing us clean and carrying us home. Thanks be to God!

#### PASSING OF PEACE

**JP 3:** Each day this week we will practice passing the peace of Christ to one another in a new way. Tonight, we will share the peace of Christ with high fives and low fives, slapping hands with those around us, saying joyfully, "The peace of Christ be with you!" Let us share God's peace with one another.

#### Song

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**JP 4:** You may be seated. When Jesus, after his death, appeared to the disciples, he breathed on them, filling their hearts and minds with peace, saying to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” As we prepare to hear God’s word proclaimed, let us breathe in and out deeply, inhaling and exhaling God’s Spirit among us here and now, and may the words of this song open us to receive God’s Holy Word.

Play “Breathe” by The Brilliance as meditation prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsqq5vJ1LU4>

Scripture

John 20: 19-29

Sermon

song

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**JP 1:** Let us stand and affirm what we believe as we hear the confessions of the Church throughout the ages.

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

(The Nicene Creed)

**All: We believe. Help us in our unbelief.**

**JP 2:** And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

(The Apostle’s Creed)

**All: We believe. Help us in our unbelief.**

**JP 1:** God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Godself . . . God is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom, are all things.

(The Westminster Confession of Faith)

**All: We believe. Help us in our unbelief.**

**JP 2:** God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. But God reveals God’s love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving a sinful humanity.  
(The Confession of 1967)

**All: We believe. Help us in our unbelief.**

**JP 1:** With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Brief Statement of Faith)

**All: We believe. Help us in our unbelief. Amen.**

Song

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**JP 4:** In 1979, Mother Teresa wrote a letter to one of her close friends. In it she confessed something deeply personal. She wrote, "Jesus has a very special love for you, but as for me, the silence and the emptiness is so great, that I look and do not see,—Listen and do not hear—the tongue moves [in prayer] but does not speak . . . I want you to pray for me—that I let Him have [a] free hand."<sup>2</sup>

Friends, even Mother Teresa wrestled with doubt.

Mother Teresa and Thomas show us that doubt is not necessarily the enemy of faith: it is proof that our hearts and minds are invested in knowing all of God, who is, ultimately, unknowable.

As we come to a time of prayer, we invite you to hold up your hands and turn your thumbs toward the creek side of the auditorium so that one palm faces up and the other faces down. Now join hands with those next to you, simultaneously lifting someone up as you yourself are lifted up by another.

Let us pray, reminded of the ways we hold space for one another in the midst of our doubts and fears.

God of surprising grace,

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<sup>2</sup> From “Mother Teresa’s Crisis of Faith,” by David Van Biema. *Time Magazine*. August 23, 2007.  
<http://time.com/4126238/mother-teresas-crisis-of-faith/>

In our fast-paced world, it seems we have proof of everything. Phones tell us the time of every hour, calendars record how we fill our days, social media shows what we eat and wear and think in 140 characters or less. Siri tells us where to drive, and apps fix all the problems in our lives.

We try so hard to make our lives predictable, certain, and safe. How could we ever make room for a God like you? How could we ever trust in One who defies the grave?

Prove yourself, they say. Prove yourself as worthy of an A, or a spot on the team, or a scholarship to college. Prove yourself with your resume, with perfect SAT scores, and the hottest prom date.

We're addicted to proof, and yet, proof feels like a weight, holding us down, suffocating the breath we're dying to take.

How can we hold space?

Space for mystery, space for dreams—

Space for questions and visions and things we don't have the answers to, but seek desperately.

You meet us here, God, in this place. You meet us in the silence, in the wake of grief. You meet us with holes in your hands and wounds that bleed. You meet us in the very breath you breathe.

“Blessed are those who believe and have not seen.”

May we believe, even when we cannot see.

May we take a breath, close our eyes, and leap.

And now, as we squeeze the hands we hold,

May we remember the promise of your love that will never let us go.

In your holy name we pray,

Amen.

charge/benediction

song

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## TUESDAY WORSHIP

### PROCESSIONAL

Song during processional “Will You Be There” by Boyce Avenue, Michael Jackson cover:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7Ilpnhr0kM>

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**JP 1:**

Through the words of poetry, let us prepare our hearts to worship God.

If we sit side by side  
will we find it?

**JP 2:**

That five letter word  
that hides behind  
memories of heartache  
and hatred  
and hurt.

**JP 1:**

Would we feel it?

**JP 2:**

Could we dig past the past, the stuff lodged in  
our chests,  
that locks up all hope of us finding  
Rest?

**JP 1:**

Rest like green pastures.

**JP 2:**

Rest like healed wounds.

**JP 1:**

Rest like the open doors  
I want to give to you.

**JP 2:**

Cause God gave it to me.  
Did I give it to someone else?  
Or forget the breadcrumbs on the  
shelf?

**JP 1:**

Did I cage it up inside my bones?  
Is it so far lost, I can't get home?

**JP 2:**

Did I tweak my muscles to forget that

memory?

Did I lose it in a dream and wake up  
to reality?

**JP 1:**

The one thing I want  
I can't seem to reach.

**JP 2:**

And it's more than a want—  
it's really a need,  
like a bird in a cage  
needs to be free.

**JP 1:**

So won't you put your hand in mine?

**JP 2:**

'Cause when you do, I am able to  
breathe the gospel into my bones,

**JP 1:**

one deep breath at a time,  
not on my own.

**JP 2:**

And the jail-cell bird cage inside my  
chest  
cracks,  
and I find it again.

**JP 1:**

There,  
at the center of my core—  
the peace you left me,

**JP 2:**

the peace you gave me.

**JP 1:**

Peace inside me.

**JP 2:**

Peace around me.

**JP 1:**

Flying,  
like a bird set free,  
this peace  
inside me.

**JP 2:**

It's like a river, or that soft green  
Valley.

**JP 1:**

You gave it to me.

**JP 2:**

You left it with me.

**JP 1:**

And of course I lost it within myself,  
but now I see it, so I'll give it to  
someone else.

**JP 2:**

For the air that floods my lungs  
is peace.

**JP 1:**

And the spaces within  
that hurt  
are released.

**JP 2:**

So I breathe the gospel into my  
bones.

**JP 1:**

One  
crack  
at a time,

**JP 2:**

til this bird flies home.<sup>3</sup>

## Song

### CALL TO CONFESSION\*

**JP 3:** We have broken bones, broken words, and broken hopes.

**JP 4:** We don't say what we mean, we pray the wrong thing.

**JP 3:** We have broken hearts and dreams on repeat.

**JP 4:** We have more blind spots than we're even aware—

**JP 3:** and a failure to see love when it's standing right there.

**JP 4:** We have hurt others and hurt ourselves more,

**JP 3:** Because for some reason we thought all was fair in love and war.

**JP 4:** Friends, let us bring our brokenness to God,  
naming the ways it keeps us back to back instead of eye to eye.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from "Til' the Bird Flies Home" poetry by Sarah Are, published on A Sanctified Art LLC, 2017.



“Back to Back” Brokenness film by A Sanctified Art:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDA1yK6KX50>

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**JP 3:** God’s forgiveness reminds us of who we’re meant to be.  
Eye to eye, we finally see.

**All: God’s grace sets us free. Allelujah, Amen.**

## PASSING OF PEACE

**JP 3:** For our passing of the peace tonight, we invite you to turn to who is sitting next to you, look them in the eye and say, “Broken and beautiful, you are a beloved child of God. Peace be with you.” Let us share the peace of Christ with one another!

## Song

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**JP 3:** Please pray with me. O God, we pray that your light would pour over these pages and illumine these old, old words — that they would dance with newness in our hearts and minds, that we would be radiant in reflecting your Word in our living and serving one another. Amen..

## Scripture

Psalm 69: 1-3; 13-18

### **JP 4:**

1 Save me, O God,  
for the waters have come up to my neck.  
2 I sink in deep mire,  
where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters,  
and the flood sweeps over me.  
3 I am weary with my crying;  
my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim  
with waiting for my God.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.

At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.  
With your faithful help 14 rescue me  
from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies  
and from the deep waters.  
15 Do not let the flood sweep over me,  
or the deep swallow me up,  
or the Pit close its mouth over me.  
16 Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.  
17 Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.  
18 Draw near to me, redeem me,  
set me free because of my enemies.

## Scripture

Luke 24:13-35

## Sermon

### Optional visual meditation after sermon

“You’re gonna be Ok” by Brian and Jenn Johnson:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjF9IqvXDjY>

## Communion

### Invitation to the table

Friends, when the disciples were walking along the road to Emmaus, their heads were so clouded with grief and despair that they couldn’t recognize the risen Christ in their very midst. Jesus appeared to them as a stranger—foreign and far removed from the devastating events of the past few days.

But after the disciples invited this stranger in for a meal, Jesus broke and blessed the bread. And as soon as they saw the crumbs fall, they remembered. As soon as they saw the wine spilled out, they saw. As soon as they heard the words of blessing drip from his lips, they knew. They saw him, in the flesh, in the wake of his very death.

And now, as we prepare to share this meal, we, too, come as disciples yearning to see the resurrected Christ in all the places we may have overlooked. We, too, come hungry to remember, to see, to know.

Friends, this is not a table only for the faithful, the worthy, the pious. It is a table for the broken, the doubting, the betraying. It is a table for us all.

So, come, all who, like the disciples on Emmaus road, can't recognize when God is standing before our very eyes.

Come, all who, like Thomas, are doubting and careful and need to slip our fingers through the wounds to truly believe.

Come, all who are hungry for a hope that defies the grave, for a love that lives beyond death.

Great prayer + prayers of the people w/ Lord's prayer

Let us pray.

Loving God,

Sometimes brokenness feels like the sky stretching over the world like a heavy blanket weighed down by the rain. Sometimes brokenness feels like a broken record, weaving its melody into our minds, becoming the soundtrack on dark days—on too many days. And then sometimes brokenness feels like the prayers we want to say that simply won't come—the sound of nothingness, of no one there, of silent air.

Holy God, we live in a world of bad news, and bruises, and heart aches, and nooses. We find ourselves surrounded by bigotry and isolation and competition and abuse, all of which can make us feel lost, wondering if it is possible to wander too far from your love.

God, in the midst of our broken hearts and our angry or worn out spirits, will you find us once again? Will you draw us close? Will you remind us that we are never alone?

Tonight, as we gather around this table, we remember all the places the world is breaking: for refugees in Syria seeking safety, for mothers in Somalia who have lost their babies, for governments that drop bombs and bills, for people who can't get health care, and for the depressed who feel despair everywhere.

And as we gather around this table, God, we look at these ordinary elements and we remember your body broken for us. We remember that there's a crack in everything—that's how the light gets in. So, God, may your light break in: in the crumbles of the bread, in the drops of the wine, in the cracks in our very hearts. May your Spirit sweep over this holy meal so that, once again, we may remember and see and know the promise of your life, a life broken open for the healing of the world.<sup>4</sup>

We pray together now, saying the words of your son aloud:

**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 and ever. Amen.**

Words of institution

Prayer after communion

Holy God, pain-bearer, life-giver, great liberator, our hearts are burning, for you have met us here, face to face and eye to eye. You have filled us once again, with food, with hope, with a taste of your kingdom to come. May this meal sink into our bones, giving us nourishment for the journey ahead. In the name of the risen, death-defying Lord, Amen.

Charge/benediction

song

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## WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

PROCESSIONAL

Play song & video during processional: "You Will Remain" by All Sons and Daughters  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHNAtp0LhY>

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<sup>4</sup> Inspired by prayer written by Sarah Are, published in "Lenten Prayers" A *Sanctified Art LLC*, 2017.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Please stand as we are called to worship.*

**JP 1:** We are the body of Christ!

**JP 2:** The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing,

**JP 1:** Justice seeking, hymn singing, love sharing, bread breaking, risk taking

**All:** **Body of Christ!**

**JP 2:** Baptized in one Spirit, we are members of one body.

**JP 1:** Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class, and ability,  
we are members of Christ's beautiful body.

**JP 2:** None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

**All:** **For only together can we find wholeness.**

**JP 1:** None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

**All:** **For we are connected like muscle and bone.**

**JP 2:** If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

**JP 1:** Thanks be to God who, in Christ, has made us one.

**All:** **Let us worship God!**<sup>5</sup>

song

## CALL TO CONFESSION

**JP 3:** You may be seated. Please join us in a time of prayerful confession.

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<sup>5</sup> By Rev. Ann B. Day. Based on I Corinthians 12:14-31. Originally published in [Shaping Sanctuary](#).

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**JP 3:** God, we lay you down, and you rise again.

**JP 4:** We pack you up, but you don't stay within.

**JP 3:** We walk away, and you trail our heels.

**JP 4:** We lock up our hearts, try to force you to steal.

**All: We put you in our pockets, but you radiate peace.**

**JP 3:** We bury our hearts, but you continue to beat.

**JP 4:** We hold our breath, but you make us breathe.

**JP 3:** We try to sleep, but you find our dreams.

**JP 4:** We deny your name, and still you're there.

**JP 3:** We paid them in silver, and still you care.

**All: We turn our backs, but you don't go anywhere.**

**JP 4:** We throw stones, and you whisper a prayer.

**JP 3:** God, we have pushed you out in every way,

**JP 4:** again and again, countless times per day.

**JP 3:** And you still say our names like lines from a love song,

**JP 4:** refusing to deny that we belong.

**All: So forgive us, we pray,**

**because tomorrow will be the same.**

**We will lay you down, and you will rise again.**

**We will pack you up; please don't stay within.<sup>6</sup>**

Play "Will we ever rise" by The Brilliance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-2YvCwCnz0>

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**JP 4:** God's love is constantly breaking us and remaking us,

Pieced together, we are made whole.

Friends, in Christ, we shall rise

above hate and fear and all that tears us from your peace.

**All: In Christ we are forgiven,**

**In Christ we are set free.**

**Thanks be to God!**

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<sup>6</sup> Adapted from a prayer written by Sarah Are, published in "Lenten Prayers" A Sanctified Art LLC, 2017.

## PASSING OF PEACE

**JP 1:** Friends, I invite you to stand and hold up your left hand in the shape of a letter “C.” Now do the same with your right hand, and bring them together to form the shape of a heart. Pieced together in God’s love, we invite you to pass the peace by making the shape of a heart with those around you. As you pass the peace in this way, we invite you to say, “The peace of Christ be with you!”

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**JP 2:** Please join me in prayer. Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Upturn our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

## Scripture

Philippians 4: 1, 4-9

## Sermon

## song

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**JP 4:** As one body, let us stand and affirm what we believe, proclaiming our unity in Christ. We invite you to join in on the lines designated by where you are sitting, either creek side (*points to creek side*), Lookout side (*points to side near Lookout road*), or the middle pews (*points to middle pews*).

**JP 4:** The communion of saints, called from the entire human family, is united by God.

**Creek side:** As the people of God, we love one another.

**Lookout side:** We experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.

**Middle pews:** We give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another.

**Creek side:** We are a benefit and blessing to one another.

**Lookout side:** We share one faith and have one calling.

**Middle pews:** We are one body, and are of one soul and mind.

**Creek side:** We have one God, Father and Mother of us all.

**Lookout side:** We are filled with one Spirit.

**Middle pews:** We are baptized with one baptism.

**Creek side:** We eat of one bread and drink of one cup.

**Lookout side:** We confess one name and are obedient to one Lord.

**Middle pews:** We work for one cause and share one hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.<sup>7</sup>**

## Communion

### Invitation to the table

Broken people, we can be made whole. As we gather around this very table, love is breaking us and remaking us, making us one.

This table is for us all,  
near and far,  
high and low,  
east and west  
north and south.

This table is for us all,  
but it is not our table.  
It's not a Presbyterian table,  
or a Montreat table,  
or an American table.  
It's a table of grace,  
so come and take your place.  
Come, let us share the feast.

### Great prayer

Leader: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts.

**All: We open our hearts to God and one another.**

Leader: Let us give thanks.

**All: We thank God with joy.**

How right it is to praise you, gracious God, for in the beginning, when the world was fresh from your hand, you made us neighbors—one people in many kinds.

Crafted in your image, we were knit together as helpers and friends.

And so you entrusted to us your justice and your joy.

But we kept them for a few and denied them to many, creating worlds of poverty and pain. And so we broke each other's hearts.

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<sup>7</sup> Written by Barbara Hedges-Goettl, published in Prayers, Affirmations of Faith, Prayers of Confession, Litanies, PC (USA).



But you didn't break us off.

In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus, full of grace and truth.

By his ministry of mercy, you restored us to each other and to you,  
mending our hearts and repairing the world.

And by his Spirit you impel us even now to be for each other what he is for us—pardon and  
peace, blessing and delight.

Here, you welcome us to this table as we are, in our diverse human expressions, valued in our  
own communities, despised in others, calling us beloved no matter what.

God of love, we give thanks for your Spirit that dwells in us, through us, and around us, reaching  
beyond the borders and boundaries we have created to separate and oppress. Now let this same  
Spirit of love descend upon this table, that in the sharing of these gifts we may experience the  
wholeness of your creation, living fully in response to your love. May we be filled with a hunger  
for justice in the world and with commitment to dismantle that which prevents wholeness. Give  
us an unshakable hope in the beloved community that emerges from this very meal.

As members of this sacred body, who suffer when one suffers, who rejoice when another  
rejoices, we come to this table of grace boldly praying the prayer Jesus taught us, speaking these  
familiar words in a fresh way:<sup>8</sup>

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,  
Holy and blessed is your true name.  
We pray for your reign of peace to come,  
We pray that your good will be done,  
Let heaven and earth become one.  
Give us this day the bread we need,  
Give it to those who have none.  
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,  
From each one to each one.  
Lead us to holy innocence  
Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.  
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:  
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**<sup>9</sup>

Words of institution

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<sup>8</sup> Liturgy inspired by liturgy written for Montreat's Disgrace Conference, 2016).

<sup>9</sup> Contemporary Lord's Prayer written by Parker Palmer.

## Prayer after communion

**Kevin:** For bread and wine, this place and this time,

**Katie:** Thanks be to God.

**Kevin:** For the peace we are promised which the world won't destroy,

**Katie:** Thanks be to God.

**Kevin:** For the hope of heaven on earth and the final song of joy,

**Katie:** Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God for bread that fills our souls and cup that fills our hearts. Through this holy meal, may the love of the faithful Creator, the peace of the wounded Healer, the joy of the challenging Spirit, and the hope of the Three in One, surround and encourage us, today, tomorrow and forever.<sup>10</sup>

## charge/benediction

## song

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# THURSDAY WORSHIP

## PROCESSIONAL

Song during processional, "Pilot Me" by Josh Garrels: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uP-Ia5heo3I>

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**JP 1:** Friends, we invite you to get comfortable in your seat and take a deep breath in and a deep breath out. Inhale God's peace, and exhale God's peace to others. Now, feel your feet firmly planted on the ground, and open your hands, palms facing up.

Continue breathing deeply as we are called to worship, using the words of St. Teresa of Avila.

**JP 2:** Christ has no body but yours,

**JP 1:** No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

**JP 2:** Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
compassion on this world,

**JP 1:** Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

**JP 2:** Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

**JP 1:** Yours are the hands,

**JP 2:** yours are the feet.

**JP 1:** Yours are the eyes,

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<sup>10</sup> Adapted from blessing by Kathy Galloway, *The Pattern of Our Days*, Wild Goose Publications, 1998.

**JP 2:** you are his body.

**JP 1:** Christ has no body now but yours,

**JP 2:** Let us use them to serve and worship God.

Song

CALL TO CONFESSION

**JP 3:** Please join us for a time of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*

**JP 3:**

Creator God,

I would like to tell you that I got lost because the road wasn't paved, not obviously marked to show me the way. However, that would be an excuse, for we know the truth—a path was cleared and still I strayed.

**JP 4:** And I would like to tell you that I got lost and walked away from your open arms, because someone led me so it's not my fault. But you and I both know that's wrong.

**JP 3:** Today I thought that I knew it all,  
and I found someone else at fault.

**JP 4:** Today I held my anger like a sword,  
and cut down another—word by word.

**JP 3:** Today I held greed close to my heart,  
and let walls be built, pulling us apart.

**JP 4:** Today I loved myself, but didn't love you,  
and tomorrow I'll probably fall victim to that too.

**All: Creator God, forgive us.**

**Paved or not, we will stray. We did it today, and we'll do it again.**

**So please don't give up on us in the end.**

**For we need you every step of the way.**

**Loving God, guide our way. Amen.**<sup>11</sup>

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**JP 3:** Holy God, you do guide the way, today and every day.  
For when we are quick to cast blame,  
You turn our pointed fingers into open hands,  
Leading us to compassion instead of hurt and shame.

**JP 4:** When our anger propels us into a fight  
You redirect our passions,  
calling us to work for justice and mercy with all our might.

**JP 3:** When we build up walls,  
You tear them apart,  
Opening doors and giving us a fresh start.

**JP 4:** When we guard our hearts and hide away from you,  
You soften our edges, and make us brand new.

**JP 3:** For this is the promise you constantly renew:

**JP 4:** We are forgiven, we are transformed,

**JP 3:** We are your children, always reborn.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### PASSING OF PEACE

**JP 1:** Tonight, we invite you to pass the peace by giving each other hand hugs. You can do this by placing your palm to a neighbor's palm, as if you are giving a high five, then wrapping your thumbs around each other's hands. Hold your palms together in a hug while you say, "May the peace of Christ hug you close."

Song

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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<sup>11</sup> Adapted from a prayer written by Sarah Are, published in "Lenten Prayers" *A Sanctified Art LLC*, 2017.

**JP 2:** Please join me in prayer,

Holy God, your scriptures illuminate the world. They guide us with light and show us the way.

But sometimes they can burn in our hearts. Your words can feel harsh, and heavy, and dark. Help us to see glimmers of truth, even when we struggle to know what to do.

May your story of peace shine through, as it did then, and now, and will continue to forevermore. Amen.

Scripture:

Matthew 10: 34-39

**JP 3:**

34 “Don’t think that I’ve come to bring peace to the earth. I haven’t come to bring peace but a sword. 35 I’ve come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 People’s enemies are members of their own households.

37 “Those who love father or mother more than me aren’t worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren’t worthy of me. 38 Those who don’t pick up their crosses and follow me aren’t worthy of me. 39 Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.

Scripture:

Mark 11:15-18

Sermon

Song

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**JP 3:** Apartheid was a system of institutionalized racial segregation in South Africa during the 1950s through the 1990s. In the midst of a society that dictated access, privilege, and power by race, faithful Christians courageously spoke out to proclaim that God stands by the poor and the suffering, and that the Church must be a model for reconciliation and justice in the face of such social sins. Their words became the Belhar Confession, which was recently adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) as one of our authoritative texts in our Book of Confessions. These words help us to continue speaking out against injustice, especially when God or religion are used to justify evil.

Let us stand and affirm what we believe to be true.

**ALL: We believe**

**JP 4:** that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

**JP 3:** that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged;

**JP 4:** that God calls the church to follow in this;

**ALL: for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;**

**JP 3:** that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

**JP 4:** that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

**JP 3:** that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

**ALL: that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;**

**JP 4:** that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need,

**JP 3:** which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice,

**ALL: so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.**

Offering

Peacemaking, as Jesus has modeled for us, is bold and active and hard. We can't sit idly by and simply hope and pray for peace. We must also live it out in our world; we must be brave enough to give of ourselves and our resources, and faithful enough to believe that God can work through small things to make a big difference. This week you have offered peaceful reflections as you have painted stones, walked the labyrinth, and engaged in small group discussions.

You offered peaceful service earlier today as you wrote letters, talked to missionaries, and assembled kits. Some of you offered service yesterday working with Asheville Youth Mission, let's take a moment to thank you for what you did.

Tonight, we invite you to share a financial gift—small or large—as a form of peacemaking, remembering that yours are the hands through which God blesses all the world.

Let us share the bold, courageous, active peace of Christ through our gifts and resources. Will the ushers come forward to collect the offering.

Song during Offering

Prayer after offering

Thank you, O God, for your mustard seed way, for you grow even the tiniest of gifts into beautiful, blooming new life. May you grow this humble offering into bounty so that your peace might come to life in our world—from the neighborhoods of Asheville to nations far and wide. And use these kits to extend your love and peace throughout communities in need. In your holy name we pray, amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**JP 1:** Please join us in a time of contemplative prayer using the words of St. Francis of Assisi. Lord, make us instruments of your peace:

**All: where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

**JP 1:** where there is injury, pardon;

**All: where there is doubt, faith;**

**JP 1:** where there is despair, hope;

**All: where there is darkness, light;**

**JP 1:** where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek

**All: to be consoled as to console,**

**JP 1:** to be understood as to understand,

**All: to be loved as to love.**

**JP 1:** For it is in giving that we receive,

**All: it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,**

**JP 1:** and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*Play sung prayer of St. Francis:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agPnMxp5Occ>

**JP 1:** Amen.

charge/benediction

song

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## FRIDAY WORSHIP

### PROCESSIONAL

Play song during processional: “Come Thou Fount” by King’s Kaleidoscope:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0wRw-dbmy8>

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand and join us as we are called to worship.

**JP 1:** God, you gave us breath; so for you, we’ll breathe deeply.

You gave us light; so for you, we’ll keep hoping.

And you gave us love; so we’ll try to love fully.

**JP 2:** God, You gave us hands; so for you, we’ll keep reaching.

You gave us hearts; so we’ll count the beating—

and try to remember to say thank you.



**All: Thank you, again and again and again.**

**JP 1:** God, you gave me all that I have—  
the strength to stand up, the chance to see you,  
Octobers, and coffee, and each shade of blue.

**All: And we try to say thank you, but thank you won't do.**

**JP 2:** So today, we'll breathe deeply for you.

**All: We'll hope until hope breaks through.**

**JP 1:** We'll love, and reach, and count heart beats,

**All: and say thank you again on repeat.**

**JP 2:** Thank you, thank you, thank you.

**All: Thank you, thank you, thank you.<sup>12</sup>**

Song

CALL TO CONFESSION

**JP 3:** When Mary Magdalene and the other women gathered at the tomb after Jesus' death, they came expecting to see death. They came expecting to see Jesus' remains to prepare him for burial.

But, instead, what they saw was a flash of blinding light, and they were filled with both great joy and great fear.

How often do we, like the women at the tomb, see the world as we expect to see it? How often do we prepare to see death and limitations, even when God is shining new life upon us?

Let us now enter into a time of silent confession, reflecting on the ways we fail to see God at work in the world.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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<sup>12</sup> Adapted from a prayer written by Sarah Are, published in "Lenten Prayers" *A Sanctified Art LLC*, 2017.

**JP 4:** Take a deep breath in and deep breath out, and let us pray:

Clench your fists and silently confess the ways you fail to see love: in the mundane moments of life, in fights with friends, in the faces of those who have hurt you deeply.

*Pause.*

**JP 3:** Now open your hands and remember the ways you have felt God’s love: in long-held hugs, in the warmth of community, in unexpected grace offered by a stranger.

*Pause.*

**JP 4:** Clench your fists and silently confess the ways you fail to see hope: in our earth ravaged by natural and human-made disasters, in leaders who hoard their power, in the groans of children who starve.

*Pause.*

**JP 3:** Now open your hands and remember the ways you have felt God’s hope: in the words of a song, in the light of the sunrise, in an invitation to try something new.

*Pause.*

**JP 4:** Clench your fists and silently confess the ways you fail to see peace: in nations that only wage war, in refugees fleeing for safety, in the chaos of our overpacked agendas and routines.

*Pause.*

**JP 3:** Now open your hands and remember the ways you have felt God’s peace: in the exhale after a big exam, in the middle of a good play on the soccer field, in quiet moments on the beach.

*Pause.*

**JP4 :** Open us, O God, by your grace. Release our tightened fists. Fill our eyes with the light of your resurrection, even when we look through the lenses of death and despair.

**JP 3:** Help us to see your love everywhere,  
rising like a hurricane.

Play “Hurricane” (by Gungor): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIpF-cwkY5E>

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**JP 3:** Friends, God's love rises like a hurricane,  
like a dead man coming up out of the grave

So, let us feel love rising in our chest again  
Rising like the burning sun into the day.

Hear and believe this good news:

In Christ, we are forgiven,

**All: In Christ, we are set free. Amen.**

### PASSING OF PEACE

**JP 1:** Friends, tonight we will pass the peace of Christ all together as one community. We invite you to quietly stand up and hold hands with your neighbors.

First, when pastor Katie (or Kevin) points in your direction, squeeze your neighbor's hand to pass the peace through a hand squeeze down the pew.

*Katie (or Kevin) starts on stage left, holding out hands (palms together to form a point). She points toward the auditorium and runs to stage right to cue hand squeeze. Cues again from stage right to stage left.*

Now, when pastor Katie (or Kevin) points in your direction, continue to hold hands and lift up your hands together to make a crowd wave and yell, "peace" as loudly as you can.

*Katie (or Kevin) cues crowd for crowd wave in same way.*

The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**JP 2:** Calm us now, O God, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the surprise of your grace. Speak to our heads and our hearts so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 28: 1-10 (read by Katie/Kevin)

Sermon

Song

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: We believe that God is present  
in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty

**All: where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

Leader: We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.  
We affirm a faith  
that takes us beyond a safe place:

**All: into action, into vulnerability  
and onto the streets.**

Leader: We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks,  
and face humiliation;

**All: to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit.  
for God's new community of hope.<sup>13</sup>**

Peace in the world video

Song

Charge/benediction

Shift to candlelight

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<sup>13</sup> The Iona Creed, from the Iona Community.