September 20, 2020

GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle  Gabe and Catherine Mershon

Prelude  Ron Bryant

The Call  "Crossing the Threshold"

On the threshold the entire past
and the endless future
rush to meet one another.
They take hold of each other and laugh.
They are so happy to discover themselves
in the awareness of a human creature.

On the threshold the present breaks all boundaries.
It is a convergence,
a fellowship with all time and space.
We find God there.
And we are found by God there.
Let us live on the threshold as threshold.
Gathering Prayer

O Holy One in our midst,
Many times today I will cross a threshold.
I hope I will catch a few of those times.
I need to remember that my life is, in fact,
a continuous series of thresholds:
   from one moment to the next,
   from one thought to the next,
   from one action to the next.
Each one fueled by Your courage;
each one sustained by Your replenishing waters.

Help us appreciate how awesome this is.
   We find You there.
And we are found by You there.

Help us cross into the present moment -
   into wonder, into Your grace:
that “now-place,” where we all are
   unfolding as Your life, moment by moment.
Let us live on the threshold as threshold.
   Amen.

Children’s Time with Ms. Amelia

Scripture Reading          Isaiah 43:16-21 (The Voice)

This is what the Eternal One says, the One who does the impossible,
   the One who makes a path through the sea, a smooth road through tumultuous waters,
The One who drags out chariots and horses,
   armies and warriors, and drowns them in the sea—
They will go down, never to rise again;
   their lives are snuffed out like a candle wick:
Don't revel only in the past,
   or spend all your time recounting the victories of days gone by.
Watch closely: I am preparing something new; it’s happening now, even as I speak,
   and you’re about to see it. I am preparing a way through the desert;
Waters will flow where there had been none.
Wild animals in the fields will honor me;
   the wild dogs and surly birds will join in.
There will be water enough for my chosen people,
   trickling springs and clear streams running through the desert.
My people, the ones whom I chose and created for my own,
   will sing my praise.

Music for Reflection          Ron

Message                      “Opportunity of a Lifetime”
Prayers of the People/Lord’s 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.

Song of Response
“Holy Ground”
Amelia Lloyd, vocalist

Moment for Mission
Stewardship 2021: Love of Children
Kelly Schneider

Thanksgiving to God

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song
“This Is a Day of New Beginnings” vv. 1-3

Sources:
Morning Has Broken

1. Morning has broken like the first morning, black-bird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain’s new fall sun-lit from heaven, like the first dew-fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elevation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day!
This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1. This is a day of new begin-nings, time to re-
mem-ber and move on, time to be-lieve what love is.
bring-ing, lay-ing to rest the pain that’s gone.
dif-ference, as faith and hope are born a-gain.
griev-ing, seek-ing new paths, and sure to find.
gin-nings—our God is mak-ing all things new.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s might-y
Spir-it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be-hind our dis-ap-point-ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be-

3. Then let us, with the Spir-it’s dar-ing, step from the
share what love can do. This is a day of new be-

4. Christ is a-live, and goes be-fore us to show and
* In faith we’ll gath-er ‘round the ta-ble to taste and

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Beloved, Love the Children.

“How often can we find ourselves amazed at the simple wisdom of children? Children have a wonderfully fresh perspective from which to see the world. For our worship on July 19, we asked some of our KUCC kids what they consider true, commendable, and pleasing, borrowing words from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi. (Philippians 4: 8).

They replied that they believe their parents and siblings are true and trustworthy, individuals who serve our society are commendable, and music, the singing of birds, and the blooming of flowers are pleasing. These youngsters did not have to look far from home to find blessings to hold dear. Their meaningful insights remind us to treasure the children themselves.

A key ministry at Kirkwood UCC is programming for children—Sunday School, LOGOS, VBS, and Faith Formation classes. As you contemplate your giving for 2021, please help keep this ministry strong with financial support and/or active participation. Beloved, Love the children.