January 3, 2021

GUIDE FOR WORSHIP

Welcome

Prelude

The Call

“Ring out, wild bells”

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to [humankind].

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring in the valiant [child] and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Gathering Song

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings” vv. 1, 2 & 4
Gathering Prayer

“In blessing for a new beginning”

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where our thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until we were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched our desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside us,
Noticing how we willed ourselves on,
Still unable to leave what we had outgrown.

It watched us play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would we always live like this.

Then the delight, when our courage kindled,
And out we stepped onto new ground,
Our eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before us.

Though our destination is not yet clear
We can trust the promise of this opening...
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon we will be home in a new rhythm,
For our souls sense the world that awaits us.
Amen. And Amen.

Children’s Time

Barb Harris

Installation of 2021 KUCC Leaders
Congregational Response:
Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God’s call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them:

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21 (The Message)

God says,
the God who builds a road right through the ocean,
who carves a path through pounding waves,
The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—
they lie down and then can’t get up;
they’re snuffed out like so many candles:
“Forget about what’s happened;
don’t keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new.
It's bursting out! Don't you see it? 
There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, 
rivers in the badlands. 
Wild animals will say 'Thank you!' 
— the coyotes and the buzzards— 
Because I provided water in the desert, 
rivers through the sun-baked earth, 
Drinking water for the people I chose, 
the people I made especially for myself, 
a people custom-made to praise me.

Music for Reflection

Message

“Brand New Vision”

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Response

“I Can See Clearly Now” Johnny Nash
  Amelia Lloyd, vocalist

Thanksgiving to God

Breaths of God

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song

“Be Now My Vision” vv. 1 & 2 Page 5

Postlude

Sources:
The Call is excerpts from “Ring out, wild bells,” a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, in Memoriam, 1850.

Gathering Prayer is adapted from “A Blessing for the New Year” by John O’Donohue, in To Bless the Space Between Us, 2008.
This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

2 Cor. 5:16-17

1 This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe: what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.

2 For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

3 Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4 Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new. In faith we’ll gather ’round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings.

* In faith we’ll gather ’round the table to taste and
Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

1 Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wisdom, and be my true word;
3 Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise,
4 Sovereign of heaven, my victory won,

nothing surpasses the love you impart—
ev'ry with in me, my soul is as sured;
you, my inheritance, now and always;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Mother and Father, you are both to me,
You and you only are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what ever be fall,

waking or sleeping, your presence my light.
now and forever your child I will be.
great God, my treasure, may we never part.
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.