**Worship Service**

McCormick Day
McCormick Theological Seminary
Thursday, October 14, 2021 | 9:15am - 9:45am Central Standard Time

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**Gathering**

Call to Worship – Adriana Rivera (Alumna 2021): A New Song (Psalm 96)

Gathering Prayer – Rev. Dr. Richard Wolf (Alumnus 1984)

Prayer of confession (written by Lis Valle) – Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagán-Banks (Alumna 1997)

  Giver of Imaginations,

  We confess that *the game is rigged* to benefit ones and keep others oppressed.
We confess that theological education is a rigged game. In the words of Dr. Patrick Reyes, the game is rigged “to exclude those who navigate multiple worlds. It is rigged to keep out of the scholarly world the person who can identify with the biblical narrative on an embodied level. It actively seeks to re-create what it already is, … being white, privileged, educated, and dressed appropriately.” (Reyes, 54)

We confess that the state of the church is in transition in these unprecedented times. As churches, we seek to be places of healing but often are places of hurt; we seek to be safer spaces but sometimes reiterate the damaging ways of the world.

We confess that often times as church and as higher theological education we fall short in our efforts to offer prophetic responses.

We pray for your forgiveness and beseech the radical imagination that can only come from your Holy Spirit.

May you stir in us a radical imagination to intervene in these unprecedented times to imagine bolder ways to offer theological education, to change the state of the Church, and to continue to offer prophetic responses.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen. Ashé. Así sea.

Word

Prayer of Illumination (written by Lis Valle) – Bobby Lewis (student)

Let us today play some games

to rekindle the imaginations

that formal education

tried to bury within ourselves.

Divine One, be the Great Spirit

that stirs the deep knowledge within us. Amén. Ashé. Así sea.


Go Down, Moses (stanza 1 and refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student

Exodus 11:1, 4-6 – Bobby Lewis (student)
Go Down, Moses (refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student


Go Down, Moses (stanza 2 and refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student

Exodus 12:29-32 – Bobby Lewis (student)

Go Down, Moses (refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student

Proclamation:
“Radical Imagination for Stories of Liberation: Oppression, Warning, Passover, Plague, Death, …”
Facilitators: Lis Valle (assistant professor) and Shawna Bowman (alumnx 2009)

Response

Go Down, Moses (refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student

Ellipsis (a litany of contributed stories)

Go Down, Moses (stanzas 3 and 4, and refrain) – Sheila McLaurin, student

Sending

Call to further reflection – Adriana Rivera (Alumna 2021): Exodus for the Rest of Us

Blessing – Lis Valle
  May the God who delights in creation
  fill us with all joy and peace,
  so that we may abound in imagination and enactment
  by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  (inspired by Rom. 15:13)
Bibliography


WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

Go Down, Moses

JUSTICE & PEACE

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land;
And let us all in Christ be free, Let my people go.

1 When Israel was in Egypt’s land, Let my people go;
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go.

2 The Lord told Moses what to do, Let my people go;
To lead the Hebrew children through, Let my people go.

3 They journeyed on at his command, Let my people go;
And came at length to Canaan’s land, Let my people go.

4 Oh, let us all from bondage flee, Let my people go;
Tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go!