

MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD WORSHIP

GATHERING

July 5, 2020

We are using a Synod worship this Sunday so there will not be Communion.

Greeting

Pastor Ali Tranvik

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ! My name is Pastor Ali Tranvik and I am thrilled to officially begin my call among you here at Cross of Glory. Today is Wednesday, July 1st—my first day—and even in these first hours here, you have already greeted me with such a warm welcome. Thank you! It is good to be here.

I think it goes without saying that it is strange to begin this call in an empty sanctuary. I wish we could all be gathered together in person. But such is life during a global pandemic. I pray that you are doing well, and I look forward to getting to know you in the days to come.

One way I hope to do so is through a series of Meet-and-Greets. These small group gatherings will be a way to begin to get to know you more deeply, learn more about what God has been up to at Cross of Glory, and hear from you about some of your hopes and prayers for this community. If you are willing to take part, there will be a few different ways to do so: by Zoom, by phone, or in a physically-distanced outdoor setting. More information about how to sign up will be sent out in the coming days, but I wanted to make sure this invitation is on your radar, and to thank you in advance for considering taking part.

Today we have a unique invitation for worship. Given we record services on Wednesdays and that today (Wednesday) is my first day, this week we are joining in a special service led by the Minneapolis Area Synod staff. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the synod has periodically invited churches to join together for worship, and today is one of those days. So as I transition into the rhythm of worship here at Cross of Glory, I invite you to take part in this synod-led service. Today's service features hymns, gospel music, poetry, and a sermon by Pastor Kelly Chatman, who serves the synod as adviser for racial equity. We are grateful for their voices in leading our local communities of faith both generally and in this service today. We will return to our own services next Sunday, July 12th, and I look forward to leading worship and preaching then.

As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship today, know that whenever you are watching this and wherever you're tuning in from, you are welcomed by a God who says in today's Gospel text: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

May we rest today in God's abundant love and grace. And yoked to God, may we also be renewed for the work of the world God calls us to, a call to proclaim that "the blind will see, the lame will walk, the lepers will be cleansed, the deaf will hear, and the dead will be raised...to bring good news to the poor" (Matt. 11:4-5). Amen!

WELCOME

Bishop Ann Svenningsen

SPOKEN WORD**Hold On****Joe Davis, Imani Waters**

All of my songs, prayers, and positive vibes
 Can't dry the eyes of the mama who cries,
 'Cuz The violence in the skies can't make her son rise!
 Too many times he's been tried, persecuted, and crucified!
 Why does it feel like these rivers of justice must have run dry?
 We don't know who to trust, can't tell the truth from the lies.
 When grieving the loss of life we still can't decide
 Who lacks humanity or whose humanity is denied?

Hold On Chorus (repeating the words "hold on")

Why are our dark faces stargazing
 Searching for our savior
 To start healing the hurt and stop the heart breaking?
 To save you and me when detained in a mental state penitentiary?
 We've been debased to a base meant to be homeless and hopeless
 And prone to starvation
 And laid in a bed of cardboard and cold hard pavement!
 We try to do right with nothing left but desperation,
 We feel forsaken, lost, and naked in a place of desperation
 Like a dessert wasteland, a lame man lamenting, restlessly wrestling, questioning if we'll ever get
 restoration!
 Impatiently waiting for rescuing yet oppressed we press painstakingly through the aching pain we're
 plagued with!
 Chasing the same worthless circle is draining, frustrating—

It's not just complaining when there's hyperventilation,
 When our lungs are simply stretching, straining for the breath to sustain them,
 We care less about reparations and systemic reformation when the birth pangs of death are banging
 at our chest the only help thy really helps is direct resuscitation!

Hold On Chorus

I'm too tired to sleep. My eyes are cried out,
 They're too dry to weep. More of my strength seems to die every week
 And I wanna scream every time that I speak.
 But we gotta Hold On...

Hold On Chorus

Hold on my people, hold on Be strong my people, be strong
 Keep on my people, keep on It won't be long until our kingdom comes
 Hold on my people, hold on Be strong my people, be strong
 Keep on my people, keep on It won't be long until our freedom comes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Bishop Ann Svennungsen,

Rev. Craig Pederson

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness
 endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God, we thank you for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth and for creating the wonderful diversity of all the cultures. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of communion with one another. We confess our failures to love and seek justice; we confess the sin of racism.

Silence is kept for reflection.

We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God's own divine image. We have judged God's beautiful diversity by our flawed and artificial standards.

We cry out to you, **Forgive us, O God**

We have accepted practices in our church and society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm people of color.

We cry out to you, **Forgive us, O God**

We have been silent and apathetic in the face of racial intolerance and bigotry, both overt and subtle, public and private.

We cry out to you, **Forgive us, O God**

Take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; empower us to speak boldly for justice and truth; and help us to find that unity that is the fruit of righteousness

We cry out to you, **Grant us courage, Grant us wisdom, Grant us love.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loves us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you might walk in newness of life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, I Woke Up This Morning

TFF 166

Oh I woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed, stayed on Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed, stayed on Jesus,
woke up this morning with my mind, and it was stayed, stayed on Jesus,
hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
Can't hate your neighbor in your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

Makes you love ev'rybody with your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
love ev'rybody with your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
love ev'rybody with your mind, when you keep it stayed, stayed on Jesus,
hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Richard Magnus

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. John Hulden

FIRST READING Meghan Olsen Biebighauser **Romans 7:15-25a**

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL READING Rev. Kelly Chatman **Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON Rev. Kelly Chatman

Grace, peace, and mercy from God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, amen.

Good morning. I want to begin with a thank you to Bishop Svennungsen for this opportunity to serve as your preacher this morning. I recently retired from my congregation back in February, just one week before the coronavirus. I hadn't really preached very much since that time.

I think about how when the bishop was deciding who among the many wonderful preachers she has on staff who she might have preach for today, she looked down the synod deep bench of preachers and saw me sitting at the end of the bench, at got the call. It's like the bishop was that coach who looked down at the end of the bench and said, "Chatman, you're in." Thank you, Bishop Ann. Thank you faithful people of the Minneapolis Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

These are challenging times. These are times of tremendous change when we cannot gather the ways we used to gather. These are challenging days when we do not get to see all the people, we are accustomed to seeing. We do not get to hear the voices we are accustomed to hearing or the children we are used to seeing and the hope they give to the church. I don't know about you, but the people I see when we gather, the children I see when we gather, the voices I hear when we gather, well, they give me hope. The people I see when we gather, they remind me of the people I see in the neighborhood. Sunday morning for me, looks a lot like the rest of the week. Now, while I can't be in the building on Sunday morning, it's the WEEK that reminds me of Sunday morning. When I visit that sight at 38th and Chicago where George Floyd died, was killed, lynched, it kind of causes me to think of the church on Sunday morning. It causes me to ask the question, "Where is God?" The church does not cut us off from the world, the church connects us

to the world. It does not matter if your congregation is in Assante, Jordan, Eden Prairie, Elk River or North or South Minneapolis. The church is the body of Christ connecting us to God's world, God's neighborhood.

Our gospel text for today is from the 11th Chapter of Matthew. Jesus has already been baptized by John the Baptist and fed those 5,000 people on the side of the mountain. Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness. Prior to this morning's text Jesus had been teaching and healing people throughout the land. At the beginning of this 11th chapter, John the Baptist is in prison and he sends word to Jesus. He wants to know if Jesus is the one the world has been waiting for or should they be looking for someone else? John wants to know, "Where is God?" Jesus, are you the ONE? Are you the answer to our hopes, the answer to our dreams, or should we be looking for someone else? Jesus with a "Dah!" Go and tell John what you hear and what you see. **"The blind receive their sight. The lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.**

What we see in the text is, Jesus is lifting up John and John is lifting up Jesus. Jesus and John are great leaders in the tradition of the prophets and their mission is to fulfill God's promise of liberation for the people of God. John and Jesus are following in the great tradition of the prophets, they are picking up their mantel and they are saying to one another and to the people of their day, "It is time." CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? The kingdom of God is at hand! It is time. But of course, there is resistance and there are people who do want or are not able to see or hear the promise in the person of Jesus and John.

I am reminded of when I was growing up as a child. It was way before we had cable television. We had one of those big box televisions. As a family we would gather around that tv when Mohammad Ali had a boxing match. We gathered around that big box tv when Martin Luther King was giving a speech and the civil rights movement was televised and we saw children being sprayed with water hoses and chased by police dogs. On that big box tv we relied on big rabbit ears antenna to give us reception. Quite often that reception would grow weak. Someone in the family would have to jump up and begin maneuvering that antenna to our reception. They would position the antenna to just the right position to where that reception would provide us with us a clearer picture. As we got older, we learned that that if we added aluminum foil to the antenna it would give us even better reception.

Jesus and John served as prophets. to help people hear and see the promise of God. Since the time of Abraham and Sara, God sent prophets to bring liberation and help people not forget. God sent prophets like Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Lydia, Jeremiah, Martin, Bonhoeffer and so many more. It is in this deep, deep tradition and witness that Jesus and John the Baptist offer testimony to the faithfulness of God.

The tension in the text is, people of God, our reception grows weak. In the text Jesus talks about how the people are distracted and unable or unwilling to see. Sound familiar? Our distraction is in the reality of racism. Our distraction is in the reality of white supremacy? The distraction is in the privilege and comfort of living in a nice neighborhoods where "our" children get to attend good schools, and the privilege of living in a country where we don't have to worry about our children being forced into gangs or into sex traffic and walls are built to protect "our" privilege.

In recent weeks, Minnesota has had a spotlight shined on us. In a lot of ways, the church has been fortunate that the focus has been on the police for a history of abuse and neglect. Thankfully, we have the witness of congregations like, Holy Trinity and Calvary and others who have been at the epicenter where the death of George Floyd has turned into an international cry for racial justice and confrontation with white supremacy. That is the reality of South Minneapolis, 38th and Chicago Avenue. Let us not forget, from Wilmer to Duluth, Albert Lee to Fergus Falls and throughout our state, there are stories.

We are the church. Like Jesus and John, we are rooted in that rich prophetic witness to be the voice of God, “Can you hear me now?”

We are the church, called and baptized into that prophetic tradition to proclaim, “the blind receive their sight. The lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. “
Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

TFF 193

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,

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 my cry, hear my call,

Hold my hand lest I fall

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears

And the night draws near,

And the day is past and gone,

At the river I stand,

Guide my feet, hold my hand

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emilie Bouvier, Kris Bjorke, Eric Howard, Brenda Blackhawk

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations.

Free us from partisanship that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children’s ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our buildings. Especially guide and strengthen us as the Covid pandemic keeps us from gathering together in beloved and familiar ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Emilie Bouvier

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory For ever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING **Better is One Day** **Matt Redman, composer**

Better is one day in Your courts, Better is one day in Your house
Better is one day in Your courts, Than thousands elsewhere

SPOKEN WORD **Raise Up** **Joe Davis, Imani Waters**

We must raise awareness
as well as raise funds,
so mothers and fathers can raise families, raise daughters and raise sons,
And stop racist police from raising their guns.
Dreams occurred not dreams deferred,
No more raisins in the sun.
Let me see you raise your fist if you'll raise your consciousness to make this change come—
I'm talkin' 'bout a love so strong even the dead will raise up.

Chorus:

Raise up my eyes Up to the hills, up to be healed
Wake up my mind, rising until the truth's revealed
What time is it? It's time to raise up!
I can feel it in my heart, it's time to raise up.
What time is it? It's time to wake up!
I can see it in my mind, it's time to wake up.
Are we ready for peace or ready for war?
We crowned the King of Dreams with a head full of thorns.
A legend is born, his words are like bread to the poor, so live each line is like breath to a corpse.
Reversing effects of post mortem rigor mortise, each verse a metaphor for metamorphosis,
a different motive and intent: no Forbes Lists celebrity endorsement,
we working for a world in which ghettos don't exist.

Everyone is rich when our souls glow from the gold within.
Been writin' since I could hold a pen,
notebook was my closest friend, wrote poems in hopes homelessness and war would end.
I was so young, mind wide open then, saw it all through a rose-colored lens until broken.
The look in your eyes gives me hope again
Dreams might be born again, so let me hear the chorus when your voice comes in.

Chorus

Some raise their hands for the questions,
some raise their hands for the answers,
Who raises concern for the mother whose child was killed while raising their hands up?
Who raises the taxes without raising the wages?

Will we raise our standard of education? Will we raise our voices, raise the vibration?
If it takes a village to raise a child what will it take to raise the nation?
It's time to raise up.

SENDING

BLESSING Bishop Ann Svennungsen

SENDING HYMN Guide My Feet TFF 153

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand. . .
Stand by me. . .
Search my heart. . .

DISMISSAL AND SHARING OF THE PEACE Bishop Ann Svennungsen
Go in peace. Christ is Risen! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



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Spoken word Joe Davis, Redeemer Lutheran Church; New City UMN, Minneapolis
Imani Waters, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis **Musicians**
Vocals Alyssa Schwitzer, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Vocals and drums Traiveon Dunlap, Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis **Vocals Emander Deward**, Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis **Piano Kent Goodroad**, Salem English Lutheran Church,
Minneapolis

Interpreters Deacon Dorothy Sparks, Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Susan Masters, Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Host congregation

Pastor Rev. Mark Schmid, St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota **Tech Kate Sterner**, St.

Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota **Tech Darin Nederhoff**, St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran

Church, Plymouth, Minnesota **Tech Christopher Hart**, St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minnesota

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Emilie Bouvier Kris Bjorke Eric Howard Brenda Blackhawk

*We work together so all experience **gracious invitation into life-giving Christian community and live in just and healthy communities.***

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