



## A Future with Hope Sunday, October 17, 2021

### MEDITATION

*"An exile, ill in heart and frame; a wanderer, weary of the way; a stranger, without love's sweet claim on any heart, go where I may!" –Frances Sargent Osgood*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING WORDS

**Pastor:** And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**PRELUDE** "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" Sandra Eutin  
Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774

Tune: Grosser Gott

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 137, a Psalm of exile*)

*Sue Rowitz, Deacon*

L: By the waters of Babylon, there we wept when we remembered.

**All: By the waters of the kitchen sink, on the living room couch, in the empty school room, and beside the makeshift dining room table office, we wept.**

L: How could we sing God's song in a strange land?

**All: How could we sing God's song over Zoom?**

L: By the waters of Babylon,

**All: There we wept when we remembered.**

L: We remembered that ancient rhythm of separation and homecoming,

**All: Exile and return, going out and coming in.**

L: You who are by the waters of Babylon: Come!

**All: We remembered that ancient rhythm of separation and homecoming, from kitchens, home offices, sidewalks, and parking lots we come!**

L: You who remember, and you who do not: Come!

**All: By car and by computer, we come!**

L: God goes with every exile;

**All: God rejoices with every return!**

L: In Babylon and Jerusalem, in strange lands and familiar rooms, in sanctuaries and on screens, in pews or chairs, couches or recliners, Come!

**All: We come to worship God.**

**\*SONG FOR THE SEASON OF PENTECOST**

“Lord, Prepare Me”

GTG #701

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

**Lord, Prepare Me / Haz de mí, Dios**

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
Haz de mí, Dios, hoy, un san - tua - rio vi - vo; pu - ro y

ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
san - to, fiel a ti. Dan - do gra - cias, se - ré por

liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you. you.  
siem - pre tu san - tua - rio, has - ta el fin. fin.

*To repeat / Para repetir* | *Last time / Última vez*

Text: John Thompson, b.1950, and Randy Scruggs, b.1953, © 1982, Full Armor Music Publishing Co.; tr. by Gerardo Oberman, b.1965, © 2019, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: SANCTUARY, Irregular; John Thompson, b.1950, and Randy Scruggs, b.1953, © 1982, Full Armor Music Publishing Co.; arr. by Nylea L. Butler-Moore, b.1960, © 2013, Full Armor Music Publishing Co.

**UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

*Sue Rowitz, Deacon*

**God of exile and glad reunions, whether we are together or apart you are present in our lives. You bring new life out of destruction, hope out of separateness, and comfort out of difficulties. We are grateful that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives. Attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit so that we may know the joy you have for us. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

NCH #73

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING – Jeremiah 29-4-14**

*Sue Rowitz, Deacon*

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For

thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

## **SERMON**

"A Future with Hope"

*Rev. Christina William*

## **ANTHEM**

"Because He Lives"

William J. Gaither

*Soloist: Lisa Allen, Soprano*

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love had done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

## **UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of generosity, for the gifts you have dispersed into the world, we give you thanks: the people, the money, the hope, and the life. For all that has been gathered here from that dispersal, the people, the money, the hope, and the life, we give you thanks. Give us the strength to be separated, the courage to be commissioned, the generosity to give, and the wisdom to send ourselves and our money where you would have them go. Send your Spirit on us and in us, wherever we are, O God, and on this gathering of your gifts. We gather ourselves and our offerings in the name of Jesus, who lives in exile with us and then leads us home. Amen.**

## **JOYS & CONCERNS**

*After names are spoken, you are invited to respond, "O Lord, hear our prayers."*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### 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 of our daily bread, and forgive us of 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 forever. Amen.

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*Brian Youmans*

### \*CLOSING HYMN

“Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

NCH #393

*You are invited to sing quietly to the music with a mask on.*

### \*BENEDICTION

May the God who is the home of the exiled,  
Christ, who was and is an exile himself,  
and the Spirit, who goes with us as we love and serve,  
be with you until we meet again. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** “We Walk by Faith” Ross Anderson Based on Dunlaps Creek by Samuel McFarland

*\*Stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

### Ministering to Us Today

*Rev. Christina Williams and Susan Rowitz, Deacon are leading us in worship today.  
We are grateful to Babette Bach, Sarah Bach, and Lisa Allen for providing the music,  
and to our technical staff for the day. Thank you for ministering to us in these ways.*



**The altar flowers today are given by Cindy Kaleskas.**

*Music covered under One License # A-728849*