

WORSHIP SERVICE

MAY 22, 2022

ASCENSION SUNDAY

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST PEOPLE

*We begin our worship by acknowledging the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. For many thousands of years, the **Gabrieleño Tangva** people sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travelers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We seek a new relationship with the Original People of this land, one based on honor and deep respect. Amen.*

OPENING PRAYER

JAVYN

God, we come this morning to thank you for all that is good in our lives and the world around us. We come to cry out for what is wrong: wars, hatred, the pandemic, economic hardship, and hunger. We come to ask for help in restoring health, relationships, and hope. We come with aching hearts and glad souls. Come and be with us in our worship. Amen.

WELCOME

SHINHWA/JANE

You Are Welcome!

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome here:*

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

*If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.*

If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.

If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,

If you are transgender, you are welcome.

If you identify as a man, woman, or gender non-conforming, you are welcome.

If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.

If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.

*If you believe in God some of the time,
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

You are welcome here!

Come with your gifts, your pains, and hopes, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind ready to engage and a heart open to discern.

***Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to
love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice,
create peace, and practice compassion***

...

You are welcome here

SPECIAL MUSIC

PART OF THE FAMILY

CALL TO WORSHIP

SUNNY/OLABISI

One: We gather as God's beloved children

All: We come with gladness

*One: Nous venons en tant qu'appelés peuple de Dieu
(We come as called people of God)*

All: We come to a place where we are all welcome

*One: 우리는 노래를 부르러 온다
(We come to sing)*

All: We come to pray

*One: 我們來敬拜
(We come to worship)*

All: We come to be together

One: We bring our hearts

All: We bring our souls

One: हम अपना दिमाग लाते हैं

(We bring our minds)

All: We bring our bodies

One: Compartimos nuestras bendiciones

(We share our blessings)

All: We share our fears

One: Dala natin ang ating pananampalataya

(We bring our faith)

All: We bring our doubts

One: We come with all that we are and all that we have

All: We come to worship as God's beloved children. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

BONNIE

God is many things to us: Creator, Father, Mother, Healer, Love, Mystery, and more. We bring the depths of our hearts to this God, trusting that in the fullness of God's grace, our prayers will be heard, and God will grant us grace. With that trust, let us go to God in prayer together.

First in silence...

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

Please join me with prayerful hearts.

God, you gave us life and death; you hold all your children in your hands. You cradle us in our needs, and you push us into growth. We admit that all is not well, that we grieve the loss of many things and people. All is not well, and we hurt in part because we cannot make things better for ourselves and our neighbors, those we love, or those around the world. All is not well, and we find it easy to be disappointed and despair.

So God, this morning, we pray for healing, strength, courage, and for grace to meet this day and the world. We pray to find you and be cradled by you once again. Hear our prayer. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

Friends, rejoice in God's love for us. We are loved, restored, and healed. Let us go out to the world as the people made new by God's grace. Amen.

As the loved people of God, I now invite you to greet those around you. Those on Zoom are invited to hug themselves with the love of God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

WORKING ON A BUILDING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SARAH

Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the sacred scriptures and enlightened us to hear your word fresh each day. Help us to rely always on your promises of grace and mercy. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

2 KINGS 5:1-14

¹ Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man in his master's sight and highly esteemed, because through him *ADONAI* had given victory to Aram. Though the man was a mighty man of valor, he had *tza'arat*.

² Aram had gone out in bands, and had taken captive a young girl from the land of Israel. So she served Naaman's wife. ³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my lord went before the prophet who is in Samaria! Then he would cure him of his *tza'arat*."

⁴ So Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus spoke the girl who is from the land of Israel." ⁵ The king of Aram said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothes.

⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel saying, "When this letter comes to you, behold, I have sent my servant Naaman to you, so you may cure him of his *tza'arat*."

⁷ Now when the king of Israel read the letter, he ripped his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man is sending to me to cure a man of his *tza'arat*? But please consider, and see how he is seeking a pretext against me."

⁸ Now when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent word to the king saying, "Why have you rent your clothes? Please, let him come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and his chariots, and stood at the doorway of the house of Elisha. ¹⁰ So Elisha sent him a messenger, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored, and you will be clean."

¹¹ But Naaman was angered and walked away, saying, "I thought he would surely come out to me, stand and call on the Name of *ADONAI* his God, and wave his hand over the spot and cure the *tza'arat*. ¹² Aren't Amanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

¹³ But his servants approached him and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he told you only to 'Wash and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So, he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God. Then his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

MESSAGE

"RESTORING LIVES"

RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

MARIKA

*We believe in God, who is attentive today,
who looks at the world and sees the hatred that segregates, divides,
sets people aside, hurts and kills,
who sees the bullets piercing the flesh,
and the blood of innocent people flowing on the earth,
stealing what somebody needs to eat,
who sees the judge that favors the highest bidders,
the truth and justice of hypocrites,
who sees the dirty rivers and the dead fish,
the toxic substances destroying the earth and piercing the sky,
who sees the future mortgaged and
humankind's debts growing.*

We believe in God, who sees all this and keeps on crying.

*We believe in God who sees a mother giving birth – a life born from pain,
who sees two children playing – a seed growing,
who sees a flower blooming out of the debris – a new beginning,
who sees three crazy women clamoring for justice – an illusion that doesn't die,
who sees the sun rising every morning – a time of opportunities.*

*We believe in God, who sees all this
and laughs because, in spite of it all,
there is hope. Amen.*

SONG OF FAITH

SHE COMES SAILING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

SNOW

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.

Eternal Spirit,
Source of all that is and ever shall be,
Loving Parent in whom we discern heaven,
May knowledge of your holiness inspire all peoples,
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom flourish on earth
Until all of humankind heed your call to justice and compassion.
May we find the food that we need for today,
And for the hurts we cause one another
May we be forgiven in the same measure that we forgive.
In times of trial and temptation, help us to be strong;
When life seems overwhelming, help us to endure.
May you reign in the power of human love,
Now and forever.
Amen.

COMMUNITY LIFE

CLOSING SONG

MY LIGHTHOUSE

BENEDICTION