

Washington Street United Methodist Church

(Pre-recorded)

Washington Street UMC ~ Christ Chapel

Liturgical Color: Green, symbolizing our life and growth in Christ



August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME (*Instructions for Interactive Worship*)

You may create your sanctuary in any space, for all things belong to God. You are invited to read Exodus 1:8-21 to familiarize yourself with the story of Shiprah and Puah. Then, light a candle and sing along with the hymns and join in with the prayers as printed in the worship guide and on the screen.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Robbie and Lisa Douglas

HYMN 454

Open My Eyes that I May See

OPEN MY EYES

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything else will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Louis Shirer, organ; Dr. Rick Frierson, piano

Words and music: Clara H. Scott, 1895

Recorded March 1, 2020 at Washington Street UMC

OPENING PRAYER *

O God of mercy, help us to live a life which is fully alive and pleasing to You, a holy and living sacrifice. Call us away from conforming to the world's ways of selfishness, greed, and power. Transform our hearts, thoughts, and actions so they align with your perfect will that affirms and loves all people and all of creation. Help us to recognize and put an end to all the oppression and evil of this world and work to bring about your Kingdom now. Open our eyes to see how we need each other and the unique gifts you have given each of us. Lord, transform us, and use us to transform the world. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, The Messiah, Son of God. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12:1-2

Lee Haynes

HYMN 2153
(vs. 1, 3)

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'M GONNA LIVE

1. I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Felicia Torres, soprano; Dr. Rick Frierson, piano

Words: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual, arr. Wendell Whalum

PROCLAMATION

Don't Be Conformed, Be Transformed

Rev. Lippert

SOLO

How Great Thou Art Stuart K. Hine, arr. Craig Courtney
Felicia Torres, soprano; Dr. Rick Frierson, piano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION **

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive, us, and reshape us in your image. And now we join our voices with all the saints as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples

THE 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 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, forever. Amen.

HYMN 399

Take My Life, and Let It Be

MESSIAH

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Felicia Torres, soprano; Dr. Rick Frierson, piano

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1873; Music: Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839; arr. George Kingsley, 1839

BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Gracious God, thank you for creating us to learn and grow. As we start a new school year, many of us are apprehensive. School will be different this year because of COVID-19, and we ask for your protection. Lord, we pray for all the teachers who are being called to go back into the classroom. Please strengthen them, protect them, and give them the ingenuity, creativity, and flexibility to teach in person, virtually, or some combination of the two. Lord, we pray for the students who are resuming classes. Some of them will be going to classes at school, some will be learning virtually, some will have switched schools, and some will be homeschooled. Even with the changes they are going through, give these students the ability to focus, learn, and have fun. Lord, we pray for the parents who are faced with difficult choices this year about what is best and safest for their families. Give them wisdom and discernment to make the right choice for their family and to understand that all families are different and there is no one right and perfect choice. Almighty God, we know that you are here with us. Please give our leaders wisdom and discernment to lead us according to your will and way and help us all make responsible choices so that this pandemic can be brought under control. In the precious and holy name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

* Written by Karen Carr and Alston Lippert

**UMC Book of Worship 479

FLOWERS

The flowers for today's service are given by Kathy and James Wright to the glory of God and in honor of teachers and staff, students and their families as a new school year begins.



NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE!

TEXT TO GIVE – TEXT “ENGAGE” TO 73256 AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS
GIVE THROUGH ENGAGE WASHINGTON, WWW.WSMETHODIST.ORG/ENGAGE
OR MAIL YOUR DONATION!