

Service of Midday Prayer for May 13, 2020

Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart Selections from *A Sanctified Art*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CENTERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May this time be good for us in body, mind, and spirit,
for we gather in the presence of God, who made us and loves us and will never leave us.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen.

I have a story to tell—

A story of a God who longed for justice.

A story of a God who pushed back the waters to make dry land.

A story of a God who would not take “no” for an answer when it came to the safety of God’s own.

For God’s people were suffering.

God’s people were crying out.

God’s people were shackled and bound by oppression.

So God said to Moses, “Speak.”

“Let my people Go.”

And Moses spoke—

Over and over again.

Moses stood up for justice,

But over and over again, Pharaoh said no.

Power said no.

The path to justice is never easy, is it?

The path to change is never a straight line, is it?

So like Rosa, who sat on the bus, and Martin who had a dream,

Moses kept trying.

God kept speaking.

Moses kept listening.

Hope kept breathing.

And when power tried to unravel justice,

The people kept dreaming.

God longed for justice.

God still longs for justice.

So let us worship God—

For human injustice will never be strong enough to unravel God's dream that all might be free,
And all might know love.
Let us worship holy God.

HYMN

Come and Fill Our Hearts

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
Alleluia!*

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 5:12, 7:8-23 *Pharaoh hardens his heart to Moses' requests*

REFLECTION

When Humans Unravel God's Plans for Justice

SUNG RESPONSE 52 *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

*When Israel was in Egypt's Land, let my people go;
Oppressed so long they could not stand, let my people go!*

Refrain:

***Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land;
Tell old Pharaoh: let my people go!***

*"No more shall they in bondage toil: let my people go!
Let them come out with Egypt's spoil: let my people go!" (Refrain)*

*O let us all from bondage flee; let my people go!
And let us all in Christ be free: let my people go! (Refrain)*

PRAYERS OF CONCERN & LORD'S PRAYER

Response to each petition:

Hear our cry, O God. **Listen to our prayer.**

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying...

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,**

Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.

**And I believe in Jesus Christ—
Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out, refusing to disregard
anyone as scrap.**

**I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being,
Making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.
I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.**

**I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics,
She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.**

**And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love,
And to invite me into a new journey.
Amen.**

HYMN 772

Live Into Hope

TRURO

*Live into hope of captives freed,
Of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
The year of God's own jubilee.*

*Live into hope! The blind shall see
With insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear,
A vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty,
The right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread,
To hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed,
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*