

## Service of Midday Prayer for June 3, 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

Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,  
**For God loves us just as we are.**  
Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,  
**For all of us is welcome here—  
scars and fears,  
depression and doubt,  
hope and joy,  
light and laughter.**  
Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself.  
**For God longs to be with us, so let us worship the God of love.**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God we confess—we are loose ends.  
You give us the gift of community,  
and we weave walls of exclusion and isolation.  
You give us the gift of a new day,  
and we spend more time unraveling justice than sewing seeds of peace and  
unity.  
You give us the gift of holy surprises and unimaginable beauty,  
and we shut off our hearts and our blindfolded eyes.  
Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.  
Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love.  
Gratefully we pray,  
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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 Mark 5: 1-20 *Jesus Heals a Legion, A Man Possessed by Demons*

REFLECTION *An Unraveling of the Mind*

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.**

*1 In an age of twisted values we have lost the truth we need.  
In sophisticated language we have justified our greed.  
By our struggle for possessions we have robbed the poor and weak.  
Hear our cry and heal our nation; your forgiveness, Lord we seek*

*2 We have built discrimination on our prejudice and fear.  
Hatred swiftly turns to cruelty if we hold resentment dear.  
For communities divided by the walls of class and race,  
hear our cry and heal our nation; show us, Lord, our love and grace.*

*3 When our families are broken, when our homes are full of strife,  
when our children are bewildered, when they lose their way in life,  
when we fail to give the aged all the care we know they need,  
hear our cry and heal our nation; help us show more love, we plead.*

*4 We who hear your word so often choose so rarely to obey.  
Turn us from our willful wandering; give us truth to light our way.  
In the power of your Spirit come to cleanse us, make us new;  
hear our cry and heal our nation till our nation honors you.*

WORDS OF BLESSING