

Chapel Communion for February 5, 2023
Epiphany Celebrated
Rev Shelagh MacKinnon
Kelly Charlton

WE GATHER

Prelude *Improvisation* K. Charlton
The Christ Candle is Brought in

Hymn Sing
Dressing the Table
A moment in Silence

The Territorial Acknowledgement: Shelagh **Call to Worship**

We gather at the beginning of a new month. The long weeks of winter candle festivals from Advent through Christmas to Epiphany – end with us bearing light into the world, We come to this time of worship willing to co-create a world of more peace and justice. May we both receive and be the gift of life and light. Let us worship God together.

Prayer of Approach: Vreny

God, Creator of new paths and possibilities, as we prepare for where we are going, we thank you that Christ is freeing us with newfound love and grace, as we learn from where we have been.

Spirit, reveal new dreams to guide us, as we start our journey home from Christmas on a new path. We take courage in the assurance that You go with us; we affirm our call to go where Christ leads; and we trust Spirit to guide us through the challenging space between, where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn "This little light of mine" (African American spiritual)

Passing the Peace

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Spiritual Reading: A Psalm for Black History Month.

Vreny:

From everlasting to everlasting world without end, You Are!
Wrought in my mother's womb and even before then
You knew I would be. Who I would become—or not...
Where I would dwell—or not... What skin tone I would have
Especially after the sun had touched me;
All these, you, Creator God, had known.
The language that I would speak or how many I would
speak, hear, and understand How I would know to call you
And know that you are still the One
How I would pray, praise, or lament
And hope and trust that you would still hear.
My mother continent is Africa - Vast lands and lakes and
rivers created by you. You were there before many a
navigator, an explorer, often a stranger created invisible
lines, invisible boundaries, unnecessary divisions.
Before I knew to call you God or Dieu, languages from across
many seas, I learned to call you in the languages of my kin
and others, closer, nearer, and dear to me, present or gone
before me in the continent of my origin, my birth, my roots.

Nyasaye (Luo)

Mungu (Kiswahili)

Mulungu (Ngoni)

Ngai (Kikuyu)

Enkai (Maasai)

Chukwu (Igbo)

Unkulunkulu (Zulu)

Lesa (Bemba)

Mwari (Shona)

You who sees all, hears all, knows all
You who are many in One, Present everywhere all at once;
You in whose image I am made,
You whose nature is Love, Unity, Harmony, Sameness,
It matters not in what land I currently dwell.
To you I pray, Breathe your nature in me
Breathe courage and wisdom in me
Breathe healing over wounds that may still be open
Breathe over scars that may still be tender
Breathe to soothe the hurt that may still linger
Breathe, so that unforgiveness may not inhabit or overwhelm me
Breathe that I may fully live to love and be loved
Understand and be understood
Accept and be accepted
Value and be valued
Listen—and be listened to
That I may not be singled out
Because of mere suspicion or stereotype
That I may not be considered as not belonging
Because a person, a people, a system
Just cannot believe or accept that I do
That I may be viewed neither as a token nor an object of pity
But truly and sincerely be recognized as a worthy and deserving human
In the here and now and beyond now
Amen
—Akinyi Owegi-Ndhlovu

This is part of our story.

Thanks be to God

Reflections: Shelagh

Hymn: VU 646 “We are marching”

The Communion

Shelagh: The Holy One is here.

God’s Spirit is with us.

Vreny: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Shelagh: Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Vreny: It is indeed good and right

to give you thanks and praise,

O God of many names.

You made a covenant with Noah

and caused nations, in their amazing diversity,
to spread over the face of the earth.

As of old you led your people

out of a land of enslavement to a land of promise,

so, too, you led our ancestors, and some among us,

into new lands of possibility—there to find you anew.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus,

in every aspect human as we are.

He grew up in a small town in Galilee,

far from the seat of religious and civil power.

He spoke with a distinct dialect.

He learned of the breadth of your grace

from a Gentile mother.

Beside Jacob’s well,

he was moved by an encounter with a minority woman

and disclosed his messianic identity.

Therefore, with these and our other ancestors in the faith,

both named and unnamed, who through the ages and all

over the world have borne courageous witness to the hope

within them, we praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy God, Source of life and love! Hosanna
through the ages!**

**Blest is the One who comes
to bring your justice to earth!**

Shelagh: On the last night he spent with his friends,
Jesus took an age-old tradition of his people and transformed
it into something new. He took bread, staple food of his
land, blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him
saying,
"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you do this, remember me."
After supper he took a cup of wine, common drink of his
people, and gave it to them, saying,
"Drink this cup, all of you, this is my new covenant.
Each time you do this, remember me."
By remembering Jesus in this way now,
we claim our common heritage
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Vreny: O faithful God, send your Holy Spirit
upon us and what we do here,
that we and these gifts, empowered by your Spirit,
may become signs of shalom
to one another and to all peoples of the earth.

Shelagh: In partaking of these gifts, make us a people for an
anxious world.

Jesus Christ, Harbinger of Hope, the Bread of Love
<<Break Bread>>

Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, the Cup of Joy.
<<Share the Cup."

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Communion: **In this moment
we give thanks for all the ways we have experienced
God's presence among us, in the words and actions of
this shared meal that brings hope at this time. Amen**

Prayers of the People: Vreny Mathis

Hymn MV218 *May the Love of Our God* P. Choo

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to
you;
the LORD lift up his countenance^[a] upon you and give you
peace.

Postlude *Heavenly Harmonies* J. Birtchett

Announcements

Epiphany Communion
February 5, 2023
Chapel at First+Met



Ms. Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.



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