

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 18, 2021

All are invited to sing during the congregational songs in worship once again! We ask that you **please wear a mask while singing** out of an abundance of caution and out of respect for the health and safety of all people joining us for worship.

Prelude

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"
Tim Hendrix

Spiritual, arr. D. Schwoebel

Lord, I want to be a servant, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be more loving, in my heart...

Lord, I want to be like Jesus, in my heart...

In my heart...In my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian - in my heart.

Welcome April Alston

Sung Call to Worship

"I've Been Meaning to Ask..."

Christian McIvor

Words and Music by Christian McIvor ©2021

Verse 1:

Hello, neighbor, where are you from? I was wondering if you'd like to come and Talk a while about the paths that led us here.

'Cause we've grown to think quite differently about the nature of reality, But if we bare our hearts, we might learn to love, not fear.

Verse 2:

Can you tell me, where does it hurt? 'Cause I know the world tends to divert Its attention from systemic suffering and pain.
But I value your experience and I'm here for you with no pretense That I can make it better, but together, we'll sustain.

Chorus:

I've been meaning to ask...

These questions leading to the cultivation

Of courageous conversation between me and you.

I've been meaning to ask...

Because I've got the curiosity

To seek out the luminosity between me and you.

Oh, I am because you are;

Oh, I am because we are.

(cont'd next page)

Verse 3:

From where you are now, what do you need? How can I help you proceed? Whatever I can do, I'm standing right here by your side. You don't even have to say a word, but I want you to know that you're seen and heard, And I'll be with you as you cross the deep and wide. (Chorus)

Bridge:

How can I help? I'm here to listen and see With your ears and eyes, to build beloved community.

Verse 4:

So, as we journey on, where do we go from here? In relationship, we'll persevere As we move forward in creating something new. 'Cause we'll take every opportunity to work toward greater unity; In our diversity, we will expand our point of view. (Chorus)

Music

"Let Us Build a House" GBC Adult Choir with Steve Rose, Flute

Words and Music by Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain:

all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)

Children's Message April Alston

Prayers of the People Linda Peterson

Scripture Reading Ruth 1:1-22 Sylvia Cash

"Where do we go from here?"

Silent Reflection

Musical Reflection

"Bridge Over Troubled Water" Elizabeth Worley, Heather Choplin, Christian McIvor Words and Music by Paul Simon

A Time of Response

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Musical Response

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
GBC Adult Choir

Words by James Weldon Johnson, Music by J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies; let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died. Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

Doxology

"Doxology" GBC Adult Choir OLD HUNDREDTH; Words by Thomas Ken, Music from the *Genevan Psalter*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrating Community

April Alston

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

"Here I Am, Send Me"

Tim Hendrix

arr. Hayes

Here I am, Lord...Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me... I will hold your people in my heart.

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