

Love

A WORSHIP SERVICE
AFFIRMING COMMITMENT & CONNECTION

Saturday, February 1, 2020

• 1:00 PM •



BOSTON AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Rev. David Wiggs *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. James G. Nunn *Bishop of Oklahoma*

The Rev. Cindy Havlik *Council Oak District Superintendent*

LOVE: A SERVICE AFFIRMING COMMITMENT AND CONNECTION

Saturday, February 1, 2020 ~ One o'clock in the afternoon

PRELUDE: Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER: The Reverend David Wiggs

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God;

People: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Leader: No one has ever seen God;

People: If we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

Leader: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,

People: And God abides in them.

Leader: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.

People: We love because God first loved us.

All: God is love, and God's love encompasses ALL.

(Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.)

OPENING HYMN: "We Are Marching in the Light of God," sung to SIYAHAMBA

We are marching in the light of God...

We are singing in the light of God...

We are praying in the light of God...

(Please be seated.)

SCRIPTURE READING: from Genesis 2

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky – before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, the Holy God formed the earth-creature from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into the earth-creature's nostrils. The human came to life. The Holy One planted a garden in Eden, or Paradise, in the east and put there the human God had formed. In the fertile land, the Creator God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also God grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and also the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Holy One took the human and settled them in Paradise to farm it and take care of it. God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" Then the Creator God said, "It's not good that the human is alone. I will make a companion for them." So the Creator God formed from the land all of the animals and birds and brought them to the human to be named. But the animals were not capable of the covenant relationship God intended for the human being. So the Holy One put the earth-creature into a deep and heavy sleep, and took one of their ribs and closed up the flesh over it. With the rib taken from the human being, the Creator God fashioned another human being, one also made of the essence of God, and joined them in covenant relationship with one another.

Leader: This is the word of God for the children of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: “For Such a Time as This,” The Reverend Twila Gibbens and Wyatt Smith

I see so many changes all around us,
Funny how they seem to never end.
And through it all we know that God has found us,
And brought us here to this place,
And it's now we must begin.

It was for such a time as this we were created,
It was for such a time as this that we were born and born again,
It was for such a time as this that God has waited
It was for such a time as this, and it's time now to begin.

Never have we had so much to offer,
Never have we had so much to give,
Never has the world needed more answers,
Never has there been more reason for us to learn to live.

Refrain

Never has the moment been so fragile,
Never has the challenge been so strong,
Never has your wisdom been more wanted,
And all the world is needed if we want to carry on.

Refrain

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jennifer Solis

LAY WITNESS: Nancy Gunter

INTERACTIVE PRAYER

(As a response to the message of love today, we invite you to continue worship through our prayer stations that are set up around the Sanctuary – two in the front and two in the back. Take some time to reflect upon God's message and pray for our LGBTQ+ siblings as we seek to share God's love. If you'd like to pray with a pastor, come to the ends of the altar railings and one will pray with you. If you'd like to pray on your own, come to the center of the altar railings and bring your heart to God.)

AFFIRMATION OF THE COVENANTS IN OUR LIVES: The Reverend Kathy Brown

Minister: As an act of resistance to the United Methodist Church's refusal to honor the relationships and covenants of LGBTQ+ people, we gather today to affirm that our identities are a celebrated part of being in relationship and covenant with each other.

All: We celebrate the community we create in the midst of celebrating our diversity.

We affirm the inherent beauty, worth and dignity of every person, and the importance of living an authentic life.

We support each person's journey of integrating spirituality and sexuality, which leads to wholeness.

We affirm the ways we have entered into covenant relationship with one another, whether in marriage, in domestic partnership, in family bonds – given or chosen, or in baptism. Love makes a family. We rejoice in these unions, and pray God’s blessing upon them.

We will do our part, by God’s grace, to uphold and care for all persons in covenant relationship.

We pray that the peace of Christ will abide in our homes, and we go from this place to serve God and neighbor in all that we do.

(Please rise.)

HYMN: “A Place at the Table” *(During the hymn, the congregation will sing the refrain on cue.)*

Rebecca Dennison and Nick Devlin, soloists

Refrain



And God will de - light _____ when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, _____



Yes, God will de - light _____ when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, _____



jus - tice and joy! _____

(Please remain standing.)

BENEDICTION: The Reverend Amy Venable

POSTLUDE: Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist



UPCOMING #RESISTHARM WORSHIP SERVICES:

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