



**“TRUE LOVE”
OPEN DOOR MCC
REV. MILLER HOFFMAN, PASTOR**

Gleanings from the Liturgy

August 13, 2017

Opening Words: (Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

Failure,
failure,
failure,
grace. \

**God is the sower and you are the soil.
The Word finds its fertile places,
and grows in you. **

God is the sower and you are the seed.
You are given to the world.
Though it may seem fruitless,
there will be a rich harvest. \

**You are the sower and love is the seed.
Though it seems wasted,
love will bear fruit. **
Be patient, and trust.

Welcome - Bless each one who is here safely, and blessings on all who are away this week.
Thank you for coming to Open Door MCC on the sixth Sunday after Pride and the first Sunday of August at the Movies!

MCC and Open Door have a special outreach to vulnerable communities and those in solidarity: Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We are and want to be community where everyone is the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God's table. This morning I'm grateful for each one of you.

Opening Prayer (Nanao Sakaki)

Within a circle of one meter
You sit, pray and sing,
Within a shelter ten meters large
You sleep well, rain sounds a lullaby.
Within a field a hundred meters large
Raise rice and goats.
Within a valley a thousand meters large
Gather firewood, water, wild vegetables and Amanitas.
Within a forest ten kilometers large
Play with raccoons, hawks,
Poison snakes and butterflies.
Mountainous country Shinano
A hundred kilometers large
Where someone lives leisurely, they say.
Within a circle ten thousand kilometers large

Go to see the southern coral reef in summer
Or winter drifting ices in the sea of Okhotsk.
Within a circle ten thousand kilometers large
Swimming in the sea of shooting stars.
Within a circle a million kilometers large
Upon the spaced-out yellow mustard blossoms
The moon in the east, the sun west.
Within a circle ten billion kilometers large
Pop far out of the solar system mandala.
Within a circle ten thousand light years large
The Galaxy full blooming in spring.
Within a circle one billion light years large
Andromeda is melting away into snowing cherry flowers.
Now within a circle ten billion light years large
All thoughts of time, space are burnt away
There again you sit, pray and sing
You sit, pray and sing.
Amen.

Passing the Peace

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek your God while your God may be found, call upon God while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to God, who may have mercy on them, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says God. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:105-112 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
I am severely afflicted; give me life, O God, according to your word.
Accept my offerings of praise, O God, and teach me your ordinances.

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:1-9 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let everyone listen!"

This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Meister Eckart wrote, If the only prayer we ever say in our life is Thank You, it is enough. Thank you.

God is with you!

And also with you!

Let us open our hearts!

We open them to God.

Let us give God thanks and praise!

It is a good and joyful thing to do!

(Annie Dillard)

At a certain point, you say to the woods, to the sea, to the mountains, the world, Now I am ready. Now I will stop and be wholly attentive. You empty yourself and wait, listening. After a time you hear it: there is nothing there. There is nothing but those things only, those created objects, discrete, growing or holding, or swaying, being rained on or raining, held, flooding or ebbing, standing, or spread. You feel the world's word as a tension, a hum, a single chorused note everywhere the same. This is it: this hum is the silence...

The silence is all there is. It is the alpha and the omega, it is God's brooding over the face of the waters; it is the blinding note of the ten thousand things, the whine of wings. You take a step in the right direction to pray to this silence, and even to address the prayer to "World." Distinctions blur. Quit your tents. Pray without ceasing...

Bless this meal, and make it become truly in us, with us, and through us your life-giving, life-changing, life-sustaining presence and your abiding love. Amen. PLEASE BE SEATED.

Closing Blessing (Rumi)

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing
and rightdoing there is a field.

I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass
the world is too full to talk about.

Go in peace

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I love you
much, more
beautiful darling
MORE THAN ANYONE ON THE EARTH
& I like you better
than everything
in the sky. E.E. CUMMINGS