

**“HERE SHE COMES”  
OPEN DOOR MCC  
REV. MILLER HOFFMAN, PASTOR**

**Gleanings from the Liturgy**

August 20, 2017

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**Opening Words:**

The whole universe depends on everything fitting together just right.  
If anything busts, even the smallest piece, then everything busts.  
If you can fix the broken piece, everything can go right back.  
When it all goes quiet behind my eyes, I see everything that made me flying around in invisible pieces.  
When I look too hard, it goes away.  
But when it all goes quiet, I see that they are all right here.  
I see that I am a little piece of a big, big universe, and that makes things right.  
When I die the scientists of the future, they going to find it all.  
They going to know,  
Once there was a Hushpuppy, and she lived with her daddy in the Bathtub.

**Welcome and Announcements**

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 seventh Sunday after Pride and the third 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.

**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:** From Genesis 1 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters... And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together called Seas. And God saw that it was good... Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’... So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God created them; male and female created them. God blessed them, and God said

to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything made, and indeed, it was very good.

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

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 133 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**For there God ordained God's blessing, life forevermore.**

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 2:21-28 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And Jesus said, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Human One is boss even of the sabbath.'

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!**

(Jan Richardson)

You had not imagined  
that something so empty  
could fill you  
to overflowing,  
and now you carry  
the knowledge  
like an awful treasure  
or like a child

that curls itself  
within your heart:  
how the emptiness  
will bear forth  
a new world  
you cannot fathom  
but on whose edge  
you stand.  
So why do you linger?  
You have seen,  
and so you are  
already blessed.  
You have been seen,  
and so you are  
the blessing.  
There is no other word  
you need.  
There is simply  
to go  
and tell.  
There is simply  
to begin.

**Closing Blessing** (*from* Robert Hendrikson)

As I stand by the bayou, I watch a ship as she disappears.  
There, she is gone.  
And we cry for this.  
But she's not gone.  
She's just as real as when she left me.  
And somewhere else, other voices are calling out, "Here she comes!"  
And that is dying.  
"Here she comes!"  
Go in peace

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