



“MERCY AND GRACE”
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OPEN DOOR MCC
REV. MILLER HOFFMAN, PASTOR

Opening Words: (Hafiz)

I bow to God in gratitude,
And I find the moon is also busy
Doing the same.

**I bow to God in great happiness,
And I learn from where the suns
And the children**

And my heart

All borrow their Light.

I bow to the Friend in deep reverence
And discover a marvelous secret carried in the air:

**This whole Universe is just as blessed
And divinely crazed as I,
And just as lost in this Wonderful Holy Dance.**

My dear,

After such a long, long journey,
God has made another soul
Free!

Now all Hafiz wants to do
Is open a beautiful Tavern

**Where this Sacred Wine
Of God’s Truth, Knowledge and Love
Is forever and ever
Freely offered to you.**

O bow to God in gratitude,
And some day

You will see how

The moon is also busy doing the same.

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 ninth Sunday after Pride and the last 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 (Dawna Markova)

I will not die an unlived life.
I will not live in fear
of falling or catching fire.

I choose to inhabit my days,
to allow my living to open me,
to make me less afraid,
more accessible,
to loosen my heart
until it becomes a wing,
a torch, a promise.
I choose to risk my significance;
to live so that which came to me as seed
goes to the next as blossom
and that which came to me as blossom,
goes on as fruit.

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 51:1-3, 6 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek God. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your ancestor and to Sarah who bore you; for they each were but one when I called them, but I blessed them and made them many. For God will comfort Zion, will comfort all its waste places, and will make its wilderness like Eden, its desert like God's garden; joy and gladness will be found in Zion, thanksgiving and the voice of song... Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O God, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of God, for great is God's glory.

For though you are high, God, you regard the lowly; but the haughty you perceive from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

You will fulfill your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O God, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Human One is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say

that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Heir of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Parent in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the reign of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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!

(Mary Oliver)

Grace.

I don't want you to just sit down at the table.

I don't want you to just eat and be content.

I want you to walk out into the fields

Where the water is shining and the rice has risen.

I want you to stand there far from this white tablecloth.

I want you to fill your hands with mud, like a blessing.

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 (Wendell Berry)

The woods is shining this morning.
Red, gold and green, the leaves
lie on the ground, or fall,
or hang full of light in the air still.
Perfect in its rise and in its fall, it takes
the place it has been coming to forever.
It has not hastened here, or lagged.
See how surely it has sought itself,
its roots passing lordly through the earth.
See how without confusion it is
all that it is, and how flawless
its grace is. Running or walking, the way
is the same. Be still. Be still.
“He moves your bones, and the way is clear.”
Go in peace

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS ([click here](#))

Please join us online!

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Prayer Chain: ODMCCprayerchain@yahoo.com (subject: JOIN PRAYER)

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