

**"TAKE MY LIFE"
OPEN DOOR MCC
REV. MILLER HOFFMAN, PASTOR**

Gleanings from the Liturgy

September 3, 2017

Opening Words: (Audre Lorde, A Litany for Survival)

**For those of us who live at the shoreline
standing upon the constant edges of decision crucial and alone for those of us who cannot
indulge the passing dreams of choice who love in doorways coming and going in the hours
between dawns
looking inward and outward at once before and after seeking a now that can breed futures
like bread in our children's mouths so their dreams will not reflect the death of ours:**

For those of us who were imprinted with fear
**like a faint line in the center of our foreheads
learning to be afraid with our mother's milk**
for by this weapon this illusion of some safety to be found the heavy-footed hoped to silence us
For all of us this instant and this triumph
We were never meant to survive.

And when the sun rises we are afraid it might not remain when the sun sets we are afraid it might
not rise in the morning
**when our stomachs are full we are afraid of indigestion when our stomachs are empty we
are afraid we may never eat again**
when we are loved we are afraid love will vanish when we are alone we are afraid love will
never return
**and when we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard nor welcomed but when we
are silent we are still afraid**
So it is better to speak remembering we were never meant to survive

Processional Hymn:

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the Lord of life (rising sun),
O Lord, have mercy on me.

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 tenth Sunday after Pride.

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 (Thomas Merton)

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

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: Jeremiah 15:15-21 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

O God, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says God: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says God. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: (Psalm 26:1-8) (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Vindicate me, O God, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in you without wavering.

Prove me, O God, and try me; test my heart and mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;

I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O God,

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

O God, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Boss! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them

deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? “For the Human One is to come with angels in the glory of the Parent, and then will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Human One coming in his reign.”

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

Hymn Psalter Hymnal, (Gray)

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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)

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body

love what it loves.

Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain

are moving across the landscapes,

over the prairies and the deep trees,

the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting --
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

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 (W.E.B. DuBois)

Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow,
not some more convenient season...
Today is the seed time,
now are the hours of work...
Go in peace

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

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