



“THE VEIL”
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OPEN DOOR MCC

Gleanings from the Liturgy

February 11, 2018

Opening Words: (Steven Garnass-Holmes)

Don't be fooled by the neon friendliness,
like a "burger and Shakes" sign.

Don't fall for the allure of great figures,
Moses and Elijah and Elvis assuring you
you're on the road to the stars.

**Don't be waylaid by your cleverness
to have brought a box,
a very theological box, to put this all in.**

Let's be honest; it's terrifying to stand
too close to a speeding train.

to get near to the power of God,
the light can change you into your own unknown,

**the mystery that will surely consume you,
the love that will crack your life open
till the light all spills out**

and you are drawn to the cross
kicking and screaming and grateful.

Maybe Jesus was a little freaked at first
to be turned into pure light.

**As with any great force, if you're not scared
you're not paying attention.**

Pay attention. Bow down, and listen.

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 second Sunday of Black History Month.

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 - (Rev. Kimindu, Neema MCC Kenya)

O God of all Creation, you gave us this World to be a home for all. Look upon the many nations where strife and conflict abound. Help us to realize love for all. May the mighty and the low live in harmony. May your spirit always remind us of our duty to care for the environment and our neighbors. May we accept the call to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

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: 2 Kings 2:1-12 (NRSV, National Council of Churches of Christ trans., included)

Now when God was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for God has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today God will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for God has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As God lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today God will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for God has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As God lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 50:1-6

(NRSV, National Council of Churches of Christ trans., included)

The mighty one, God the Creator, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence, before God is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around God.

God calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that God may judge God's people:

"Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

The heavens declare God's righteousness, for God alone is judge. *Selah*

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3:6

(NRSV, National Council of Churches of Christ trans., included)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who

said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Meister Eckard said, if the only prayer you ever say 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!

Closing Blessing (Tupac)

Where there is a will...Where there is a will there is a way 2 search and discover a better day.

Where a positive heart is all u need 2 Rise Beyond and succeed.

Where young minds grow and respect each other

based on their deeds and not their color.

When times R dim say as I say

Go in peace

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

Please join us online!

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/welcome.opendoormcc>

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

Newsletter Listserve: <mailto:rev-3-8@opendoormcc.org?subject=JOIN NEWS>

Sermons' text and audio, prayers, and readings are available [here](#) on our Website each week.

Donate by doing your regular shopping! Do your online shopping with Amazon at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and choose Open Door MCC to receive a portion of the proceeds.

Montgomery County SURJ is learning, teaching, and witnessing against racial injustice. Join them on FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/surjmocomd/>.

Open Door is now able to accept company matching funds. Please look into whether you work for a company that offers matching funds and let us know how to help you double your offering to the church! You can also donate to Open Door through the United Way. Ask us how!

If you are so moved, you might donate additional monies to the "Do Unto Others" fund, which allows Open Door to help folks who need emergencies monies for necessities. Just mark your gift DUO or "Do Unto Others" in the memo line. Bless you! If you need emergency assistance, please speak to Rev. Miller or any Board Member.

Open Door needs you! There are lots of ways to get involved. Where does your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet?

Frederick's LGBTQ Community Center is scheduling community and small-group get-togethers and activities. Find out more on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/TheFrederickCenter?>