

“FLOOD, WILDERNESS, COVENANT”
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OPEN DOOR MCC

Gleanings from the Liturgy

February 18, 2018

Opening Words: (Maya Angelou)

Because we have forgotten our ancestors,
Our children no longer give us honor.

Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared

Kneeling in perilous undergrowth

Our children cannot find their way.

Because we have banished the God of our ancestors,
Our children cannot pray.

Because the old wails of our ancestors have faded beyond our hearing.

Our children cannot hear us crying.

Because we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and fathering,
Our befuddled children give birth to children

They neither want nor understand.

Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is within our gates,
And holds us up to the mirror of the world shouting,

‘Regard the loveless’

Therefore we pledge to bind ourselves to one another, to embrace our

Lowliest, to keep company with our loneliest, to educate our illiterate,

To feed our starving, to clothe our ragged, to do all good things, knowing

That we are more than keepers of our brothers and sisters.

We are our brothers and sisters.

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 first Sunday of Lent, and the third 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

We have gathered in this place this morning,
allow your spirit to fill our very being.

Most gracious and loving God,
we remember the struggles of our people, black people,
people of African descent,
your people and thank you for your grace,
your love, and your mercy.

We thank you for leaders that you continue to place in high places and ordinary places.
Inspire each of us to work more faithfully for justice and dignity of life everywhere.
Lord God, we remember the hurts of exclusion and prejudice,

but we know that you can raise our vision above all barriers and give us wisdom and courage to make this a better world.

As you give us yourself in the Bread of Hope and the Cup of Mercy - show us how to give ourselves to those who are without hope and to those who cry for mercy.

Lord God, rule over our spirit in this hour that we will go from this worship with the freedom of those who trust in you.

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: Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

To you, God, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly Treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, God; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day Long.

Be mindful of your mercy, God, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast Love remember me, for your goodness' sake, God!

Good and upright is God; therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble God's way.

All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant and God's decrees.

Second Reading: Mark 1: 9-15 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the

wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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 (tamtoomilji)

When things go wrong as they sometimes do
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill
When the funds are low and the debts are high
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh
When care is pressing you down a bit, Rest if you must
But, don't you quit. Life is queer with its twists and turns.
As everyone of us sometimes learns, and many a failure turns about,
When she might have won, had she stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.
Success is failure turned inside out.
The silver tint in the clouds of doubt.
And you can never tell how close you are, it may
Be nearest when it seems so far.
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit.
Its when things seem worst, you must never quit.
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@yahoogroups.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?>