

“CLEANSING THE TEMPLE”
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OPEN DOOR MCC

Gleanings from the Liturgy

March 4, 2018

Opening Words: (Maya Angelou)

We, unaccustomed to courage, exiles from delight
Live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple
And comes into our sight to liberate us into life.

**Love arrives and in its train comes ecstasies old memories of pleasure,
Ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are bold, love strikes away
The chains of fear from our souls.**

We are weaned from our timidity in the flush of love's light;
We dare be brave and suddenly we see that love costs all we are
And ever will be. Yet it is only love which sets us free.

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 Epiphany, New Year's Eve, and Kwanzaa Sunday!

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 (Isaiah 58)

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?
Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide
the poor wanderer with shelter--when you see the naked, to clothe them
and not turn away from your own flesh and blood?
Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of God will be your rear guard.
Then you will call, and God will answer;
you will cry for help, and God will say: Here I AM.
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: Exodus 20:1-17 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,

Which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,

And like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them;

And nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;

The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;

The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of God is clear, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of God is pure, enduring forever;

The ordinances of God are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

Sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,

O God, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading: John 2:13-22 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out

the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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 (Teresa of Avila)

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,
You are his body. Christ has no body now but yours.
Go in peace

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

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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.

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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?>