

**“WHAT TO DO - WHEN YOU LOSE THE CUTTING EDGE”**  
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**OPEN DOOR MCC**

**Gleanings from the Liturgy**

March 11, 2018

**Opening Words:** (Lao Tzu)

Can you coax your mind from its wandering and keep to the original oneness?

Can you let your body become as supple as a newborn child's?

Can you cleanse your inner vision until you see nothing but light?

**Can you love people and lead them without imposing your will?**

**Can you deal with the most vital matters by letting events take their course?**

**Can you step back from your own mind and thus understand all things?**

Giving birth and nourishing, having without possessing, acting with no expectations,

Leading and not trying to control:

This is the supreme virtue.

**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 fourth Sunday of Lent!

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:** Numbers 21:4-9 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the

people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then God sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against God and against you; pray to God to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And God said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

O give thanks to God, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of God say so, those God redeemed from trouble**

**And gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,**

**From the north and from the south.**

Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;

They loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

**Then they cried to God in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress;**

**God sent out God's word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.**

Let them thank God for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.

And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

**Second Reading:** 2 Kings 6:1-7 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Now the company of prophets said to Elisha, "As you see, the place where we live under your charge is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, and let us collect logs there, one for each of us, and build a place there for us to live." He answered, "Do so." Then one of them said, "Please come with your servants." And he answered, "I will." So he went with them. When they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was felling a log, his ax head fell into the water; he cried out, "Alas, master! It was borrowed." Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick, and threw it in there, and made the iron float. He said, "Pick it up." So he reached out his hand and took it.

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!**

Bless this meal, God, 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.

### **Closing Blessing** (Steve Garnass-Holms)

On the cross is lifted up our racism, our violence, our materialism,

Our deep-seated me-first-ism. Posted there is our last text to God,  
"I'll let you know when I need you."  
We look at it, look at it hard, to get free of the lie that we're just fine,  
Ohe lie that keeps us from knowing how deeply we are forgiven,  
How vastly we are blessed, how infinitely we are loved.  
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](mailto: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.

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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?>