

**“DEEP IN OUR HEARTS”  
CURT JUDD, GUEST PREACHER  
OPEN DOOR MCC**

**Gleanings from the Liturgy**

March 18, 2018

**Opening Words:** (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

**He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.**

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God who created the heavens  
and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it. who gives  
breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

**I am God, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,**

**To open the eyes that are blind,**

**To bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,**

**From the prison those who sit in darkness.**

**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 fifth 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** – Traditional Irish Blessing

God bless the corners of this house, and be the lintel blest  
And bless the hearth and bless the board, and bless each place of rest,  
And bless each door that opens wide to stranger as to kin,  
And bless each crystal window pane that lets the starlight in,  
And bless the roofree overhead and every sturdy wall.  
The peace of all, the peace of God, the peace of love on all.

**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:** Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

The days are surely coming, says God, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I

took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their spouse, says God. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says God: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know God,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says God; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119:9-16 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

**I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.**

**Blessed are you, O God teach me your statutes.**

With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

**I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.**

**I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

**Second Reading:** John 12:20-33 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Creator will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Creator, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Creator, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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** (Stephen Hawking)

"Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet.

Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist.

Be curious. And however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. It matters that you don't just give up."

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?>