

“TRIUMPH?”
CURT JUDD, GUEST PREACHER
OPEN DOOR MCC

Gleanings from the Liturgy

March 25 2018

Opening Words: (Isaiah 50:4-9)

God has given me the tongue of a teacher
That I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

**Morning by morning God wakens—wakens my ear
To listen as those who are taught.**

God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

Therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

God, who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

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 sixth and last Sunday of Lent – Palm 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 – Kahlil Gibran

When you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:

To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night.

To know the pain of too much tenderness. To be wounded by your own understanding of love; and to bleed willingly and joyfully.

To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day;

To rest at noon hour and meditate love's ecstasy; to return home at

eventide with gratitude; and then to sleep with a prayer for the Beloved

in your heart and a song of praise on your lips. **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: Isaiah 53:1-12 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of God been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of God to crush him with pain when you make his life an offering for sin, God shall see God's offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of God shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light;

He shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

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

Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear God say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

Out of my distress I called on God; God answered me and set me in a broad place.

With God on my side I do not fear.

What can mortals do to me?

God is on my side to help me; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

It is better to take refuge in God than to put confidence in mortals.

It is better to take refuge in God than to put confidence in princes.

All nations surrounded me; in the name of God I cut them off!

They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of God I cut them off!

They surrounded me like bees; they blazed like a fire of thorns; in the name of God I cut them off!

I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but God helped me.

God is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of God does valiantly; the right hand of God is exalted; the right hand of God does valiantly."

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of God.

God has punished me severely, but God did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O God!

O God, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God is God, and God has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

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

Second Reading: Mark 11:1-11 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
"Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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 (Nina Simone)

Say'em loud, say'em clear for the whole 'round world to hear

I wish I could share all the love that's in my heart

Remove all the thoughts that keep us apart.

I wish you could know what it means to be me
then you'd see and agree that everyone should be free.
Go in peace

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

Please join us online!

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

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

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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?>