

“DOING LOVE - WITH JESUS AMONG US”
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OPEN DOOR MCC

Gleanings from the Liturgy

April 15, 2018

Opening Words: (Jane Pellowski adapted from Anima Christi)

Soul of Earth, sanctify me

Body of Earth, save me.

Blood of Earth, fill me with love.

Water from Earth's side, wash me

Passion of Earth, strengthen me

Resurrection of Earth, empower me.

Good Earth, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me.

Never let me be separated from you.

From the power of evil, protect me.

At the hour of my death, call me.

That with your living ones I may thank you

For all eternity. Amen

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 Third Sunday of the Easter season!

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 – Steve Garnass-Holmes

Christ is risen in the body of those who forgive in this world.

Forgiveness is where resurrection takes form, where

Wound becomes blessing, where lives become actually new.

Where people become free, lured by fishers out of graves into light.

The new self is freed from the old life; anger no longer has dominion.

Justice rises not from the cross of retribution,

but from the empty grave of grace.

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: Acts 3:12-19 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified God’s servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what God had foretold through all the prophets, that God’s Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, This is the word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 4 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*

But know that God has set apart the faithful for God;

God hears when I call.

When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in God.

There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, God!”

You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Second Reading: Luke 24:36b-48 (NRSV, NCCC trans., inclusified)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

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 (Anne Hillman)

For something new is being born in us,
if we but let it.

We stand at a new doorway,

Awaiting that which comes...

Daring to be human creatures.

Vulnerable to the beauty of existence.

Learning to love.

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.

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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 emergency 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?>