

# A LITURGY OF WORD AND TABLE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018

*The worship space will be set up with two columns of chairs, facing the north end, with the pulpit off to the one side. The projector screen will be on the other.*

## GATHERING

**Choral Prelude: TST CHOIR** (I was glad (Central American trad. arr. Bell)

*Becca to welcome, ask for announcements, Morgan to explain service and introduce Paul and Néstor etc. Chyverne comes forward for territorial acknowledgement.*

Chyverne As we gather on this space to worship,  
we acknowledge this land made sacred by Creator.  
We honour those who have breathed its air,  
tasted its fruits, tended its soils,  
and cherished its waters for thousands of years  
Among their names are the Huron-Wendat,  
the Petun, the Seneca, and the Mississauga.  
Today, their descendants and other Original Peoples of Turtle Island  
steward this land with care and fidelity.  
*Chyverne lights a candle and resumes her seat.*

Swée Hong: *(speaks from the piano)* Matt and Becca to be cantors together

As we sing this song, let us offer our song in prayer and solidarity with  
the people of South Africa and all those who continue on the long  
journey towards justice.

*Sing "You are Holy" (MV 45) twice. Readers will come to the front and  
line up side-by-side. The musician will continue to play the song quietly  
but joyfully and with variations while each person reads.*

Becca In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

Leanne     God created the world and saw that it was very good.  
              When humanity turned away from God.  
              God sent the flood waters cleanse, and recreate.  
              Then, with Noah and with all creation,  
              God created a rainbow covenant of promise and redemption.

Caro        God blessed Sarah and Abraham  
              with descendants as numerous as the stars.  
              When they were enslaved, God parted seas and delivered them.  
              Guiding Miriam and Moses, God led them across the desert.

*All sing* You Are Holy.

Alex        When our ancestors wandered,  
              God sent prophets to call them back to faith:  
              Isaiah proclaimed God's abundant life for the poor.  
              Jeremiah rebuked idolatry and cried of God's faithfulness.  
              Ezekiel saw the dried bones of a broken people stitched back to life.

Carmen     God's promises are continually made real,  
              from beginning to end.  
              The Word who created life from dust became dust:  
              flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood.

Tom         Jesus the Word spoke freedom to the oppressed;  
              wholeness to the broken;  
              forgiveness to the sin-laden;  
              rescue to those in bondage;  
              and resurrection for the dead.

*All sing* You Are Holy.

Saya        Jesus called his followers,  
              ate meals with sinners and outcasts,  
              laughed with friends, wept with holy grief,  
              and shouted with righteous anger.  
              Jesus made enemies.  
              He was sentenced to death.

Matt           And though hatred is loud, Jesus' love is louder.  
                  Though violence is strong, his peace is stronger.  
                  Though oppression is widespread, his liberation is wider.  
                  Though Jesus was cast down like dead seed,  
                  he springs up as the Living Vine.

Judith         So as this Lent draws to a close,  
                  as the despair of the Cross draws near,  
                  we dare to look beyond  
                  to the brilliance of Holy Spirit  
                  and the promise of Abba-God,  
                  as we await the Resurrection of the Crucified.

*All sing You Are Holy. Readers take their seats. After this litany ends, Swee Hong will then segue into the following hymn:*

**Hymn:**      **“Joy Comes with the Dawn” (VU 166)** *Matt to be cantor*

**Invitation to Confession (Rhiannon)**

Dear Friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love  
and infinite in mercy.  
Let us confess our sins,  
confident in God's love.

*Silence*

**Confession (Rhiannon)**

God of the living and the dead,  
we are burdened by the things we have done  
and by the things we have not done.  
We remember our broken promises and missed opportunities;  
the gifts we have taken for granted,  
the love we have not shown or returned.  
Forgive us, comfort and heal us.  
Lift our guilt from us,  
that we may walk in freedom and grace. Amen.

## **Words of Assurance (Rhiannon)**

Friends, the hope of the resurrection  
is that God loves us,  
Christ walks with us in the Way,  
and the breath of the Spirit gives us new life.  
Thanks be to God.

## **WORD**

Philippians 4:4-14

Sam        A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through the One who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

Sam        The Word of God for the people of God.

All        **Thanks be to God.**                    *Sam resumes his seat.*

## Psalm 23

*Refrain* Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

Shep - herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

Cm7 D<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m7 Cm7 (Last time D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> Fm B<sup>b</sup>m F) Fm B<sup>b</sup>m Fm

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

*Leanne comes to the pulpit.*

Leanne The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John:

You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Leanne The Word of God for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon (Paul Wilson)**

**Hymn: "My Life Flows On" (VU 716), verses 1-3**

## **Prayers of the People:** (Jess & Morgan)

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for our sisters and brothers from all faith traditions, for the many denominations of the Christian church, and for this gathering.

*Silence*

Loving God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is sanctified. Receive our prayers, that in our vocation and ministry we may embody discipleship so that we may truly and devoutly serve you; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

I ask your prayers for peace, for goodwill among nations, and for the well-being of all people.

*Silence*

Tender God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. In their afflictions show them your mercy, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of the one who suffered for us, your child Jesus Christ. Amen.

I ask your prayers for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone.

*Silence*

O God, the giver of eternal life, grant to us, and to all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, fullness of joy in the fellowship of your communion.

*Silence*

And now as our Saviour Jesus taught us, let us pray...

## TABLE

### Invitation & Peace

Presider In the name of the One who said,  
“I am the Bread of Life,”  
I invite you to come and feast.  
In the name of the One who said,  
“I am the True Vine,”  
I invite you to come and drink.  
In the name of the One who said,  
“Love one another as I have loved you,”  
I invite you to this Table: the Table of Jesus Christ.  
May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

*All exchange signs of peace.*

**Hymn:** “**All Who Hunger**” (VU 460) *Piano, lively tempo, could include drum*

*During the hymn, Rhiannon, Chyvonne, and Becca will bring forward the Gifts to the Table. After the hymn ends, Néstor will begin with these words:*

Presider God be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts!

All **We lift them up to God!**

Presider Let us give thanks to our God!

All **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

Presider Loving God, Redeemer of all,  
we thank and praise you with our lips and with our lives,  
that, having created us and all things through your Word,  
you welcome our prayer and praise.  
For the goodness of creation and the gift of redemption,  
we praise you.

For the law of holiness, inviting our faithfulness,  
and the call of prophets, rebuking our unfaithfulness,  
we praise you.

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

*All sing Santo, Santo, Santo.*

Loving God, Holy One,  
we offer you praise and thanksgiving for this bread and cup,  
because in Jesus Christ, your only Son,  
you have joined yourself forever to us,  
uniting heaven and earth.

Therefore, we remember:  
Jesus' birth into our humanity,  
baptism for our belonging,  
compassion for our suffering,  
intimacy with our frailty,  
rebuke of our pride,  
forgiveness of our sin,  
bearing of the cross of death,  
and rising from the tomb by the power of God.

*Néstor offers the Words of Institution in Spanish.*

Porque yo recibí del Señor lo que también os he enseñado:  
Que el Señor Jesús, la noche que fue entregado, tomó pan;  
y habiendo dado gracias, lo partió, y dijo: Tomad, comed; esto es mi  
cuerpo que por vosotros es partido; haced esto en memoria de mí.  
Asimismo, tomó también la copa, después de haber cenado, diciendo:  
Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre; haced esto todas las veces que  
la bebiereis, en memoria de mí.  
Así, pues, todas las veces que comiereis este pan, y bebiereis esta copa,  
la muerte del Señor anunciáis hasta que él venga.  
And so, in protest against the forces of violence,



discrimination, and racism  
and everything that goes against your divine intent  
and in affirmation of the life that God gives us through mother earth  
and the food we share at this table,  
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*All sing* Christ Has Died.

*Néstor raises his hands above the elements in blessing.*

Loving God, creative Power,  
blessing your name, we seek the strength of your Spirit to counter evil.  
Come to us and bless these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the sign and seal  
of your love bringing us together;  
and our adoption as your children.  
As we eat and drink together,  
help us remember the hands who picked  
the grains and harvested the grapes.  
As we share this meal, make us heralds  
of your justice and mercy throughout all the world.

*Néstor lifts the bread and the wine, and says:*

Following the example of Christ,  
we seek justice and equality  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit.  
Most holy God, walk with us as we seek to follow your will,  
now and forever. Amen.

*All sing* Great Amen.

As Jesus Christ came into the world  
in solidarity and grace,  
now these gifts of God come to you,  
to nourish you for your vocation as God's prophetic people.  
Rest and be filled for the journey ahead.

*As the choir sings “We come now to your table, Lord” Rhiannon, Chyvonne, Becca, and Néstor take the plates of bread and juice to the people seated. Rhiannon and Chyvonne will take one side of the assembly; Becca and Néstor the other. Row by row, they will pass the elements to each of the congregants. The congregants will wait until all have been served before consuming the Gifts. After all have been served, Néstor will proceed back to the front to lead the consumption of the Gifts with these words:*

*He raises his bread:*

The Body of Christ: Bread for the Journey.

*He eats his bread. After eating, he raises his juice:*

The Blood of Christ: The Cup of Blessing.

*Néstor drinks his juice and, after a brief moment of silence, leads the Prayer after Communion.*

Néstor Let us pray.  
We give thanks, loving God,  
for allowing us to commune with you and with each other.  
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world  
united in the common calling of living out your gospel,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Matt resumes his seat. Michelle comes forward to the front.*

## **SENDING**

Michelle As members of this community  
for a time, Emmanuel College is our home.

Together we gather to celebrate God’s presence,  
listen for the voice of the divine, learn from one another,  
and seek to discern our vocational pathway.

Today we bless those who graduate and two retiring faculty  
as they continue on their journey.

Could our graduating students please join me here at the front?

*Graduands join Michelle at the front.*

Please join me by rising in body or spirit, placing your hand on a shoulder or raising your hands in blessing, and praying along with me.

*Pause.*

For the ways God has blessed Emmanuel through you –  
for your work, laughter, friendship, and prayer:

**We bless you.**

With thanks for the learning you've done here,  
for your growth in ministry, and for your vocation:

**We bless you.**

For all you have taught us,  
for the ways you've challenged your colleagues,  
for the hope you carry within you.

**We bless you.**

As you go from here, to follow in the ways of your faith tradition  
may you be assured that our love, prayers, and support  
accompany you on your journey.

We give thanks for all those who have supported you on your journey.  
For your family, friends, teachers, classmates,  
and for all the communities that have supported you.

Let us sing:       And On This Path 2X (MV 8) *Matt as cantor with SHL*

*The graduands resume their seats. Michelle then says:*

With full hearts, we also celebrate two retiring faculty members:  
Dr. Marilyn Legge and Dr. Paul Scott Wilson.

Paul and Marilyn, will you join me here as we bless you for your  
journey?       *Paul and Marilyn join Michelle.*

As students, you grew in this place.  
God called you back here to serve as professors.  
For decades you taught and helped to form hundreds of students  
for God's mission in this world.

For sharing your lives with us,

**We bless you.**

Paul, you prepared students  
to preach the Word:  
to proclaim God's grace in a world of trouble.  
For your vision, your faith, and your service to the Gospel,

**We bless you.**

Marilyn, you taught us of God's care for  
the least, the last, and the lost.  
You demonstrate that care with your teaching and your life.  
For your vision, your faith, and your service to the Gospel,

**We bless you.**

As you go from here,  
go, blessed with our love, prayers, and support  
to follow God's way, accompanied by Jesus on your journey,  
nourished by the fires of the Holy Spirit  
that you may continue to seek justice, love mercy  
and walk humbly with your God.

Michelle May the God of hope go with all of us!

*All sing May the God of Hope Go with Us (VU 424). During the final verse,  
Marilyn comes to the front to offer her benediction.*

**Hymn: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" (VU 424)**

**Benediction (Offered by Marilyn Legge)**

**Choral Closing – TST Choir I'm goin' up a-yonder (Hawkins, arr. Read)**