

*First***CHURCH**
First United Methodist Church of Boulder

1421 Spruce Street Boulder, CO 80302
303.442.3770
www.fumcboulder.org

10:30 am Worship

Sunday, August 16, 2020

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

THE AVOWAL

by **Denise Levertov**

*As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.*

PRELUDE

“Prelude in E Flat”
Gerald Holbrook, organ

Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

THE CALL

Rev. Michael Mather

Come to the table of grace,
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Sung by Stella and Lily Pradeau

Presider: Friends, God is ever present with you!

***People:* And also with you.**

(Sung by soloist)

Come to the table of grace,

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Dan Swanson

As United Methodists, we affirm the Wesleyan Quadrilateral:

The living core of the Christian faith is revealed in scripture, illumined by tradition, confirmed with reason and made real in personal experience.

(The United Methodist Book of Discipline)

Presider: Turn to the people around you, and make a peace sign for those you see on the screen, and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

***People:* "The peace of Christ is always with you!"**

(Sung by soloist)

Come to the table of peace,

Come to the table of peace

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of peace.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Dan Swanson

Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

LESSON FROM THE CONTEMPORARY CHURCH

SPECIAL MUSIC "Ella's Song" Sweet Honey in the Rock

SERMON *How Do We Sing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land:
The Church of Almighty Good Food*
Rev. Michael Mather

HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" Afro-American Spiritual
*(While remaining muted, please sing along with the hymn wherever
you are watching.)*

(Sung by soloist)

Come to the table of peace,
Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.

Liturgist (Suzanne Hoover): Listen! The body breathes in together...and out. As close as breath, the Holy is present with us. So we lift up our hearts. And the people say:

People: "We lift them up to God!"

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One because it is the right thing to do, not only now, but always, for "always" is when God is with us.

Liturgist: I invite you to open both palms upward in the sign language for “give.”

Presider: We thank you, Creator God, that you formed us in your image.

Liturgist: Now place your hands together in the sign meaning “to be with.”

Presider: We thank you, Sustainer God, that you are here with us.

Liturgist: Bring your hands close to your face, in the sign for “prayer.” Close your eyes and become aware of your breath on your hands.

Presider: We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life. Even when we have turned away, you have remained with us, close as breath. When we have been frightened, hesitant, still you are patient. You have time and again reached out your hand to free us, for your promise is steadfast.

Liturgist: And so, we open our eyes, our hands and our hearts to your will for us as told to us through your prophets. We join our voices together praising you along with all who do, have ever done so and ever will do so singing:

***People:* Holy, Holy, Holy God!
Everywhere we see your Glory!
Hosanna in the highest,
and the widest,
and the deepest,
core of our being.**

Liturgist: Listen people!
Christ is with you.
He healed the sick, fed the hungry...
and sat down at the table and ate with especially those others considered
“unworthy.”
Let us remind ourselves by saying:

***People:* Christ is present with every one of us.**

(Sung by soloist)
Come to the table of love,
Come to the table of love.

This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.

Presider: On the night before he died,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

(Sung by soloist)
Come to the table of love,
Come to the table of love.
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.

Liturgist: Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding
each other and creation that:

People: Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again.

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

Presider: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of
bread and wine. Let them be for us the presence Christ so that we may recognize
Christ's presence in the world, liberated by his witness, passion and life. Be with
us, Holy Spirit, fill us so you can move through us.

Liturgist: I invite you to make a point of connection with those around you by

laying a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, whatever is most comfortable for you.

Presider: By your spirit we are one with Christ, the host of this table, and one with each other. Let this joy be seen in us outside of this place. It is with great thanks that all God's people say, "**Amen!**"

(Sung by soloist)

Come to the table of joy,
Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of joy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Mother and Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephanie Moffitt

BENEDICTION

Rev. Michael Mather

POSTLUDE

"Cornet Voluntary in G"
Gerald Holbrook, organ

Starling Goodwin
18th century

***This week, as we all live into the things around us,
let's remember to offer peace to one another.***

**THANK YOU to those who contributed
their time and talents to our service today:**

Suzanne Hoover, Lily Pradeau,
Stella Pradeau, and Dan Swanson

After worship, please stay on Zoom and join us for Coffee Hour!

Please watch your email, and check our website and Facebook page, for info about future online church services and gatherings as the coronavirus pandemic continues to develop.

Join Us for Our Service on August 23, 2020

10:30 am MDT on Zoom

Speaker: Michael Mather

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Dinners This Month ~ The Digital Dinners series with Mike continues! These online gatherings will be chances for him to hear from the parish about the things that are meaningful to us. While we are meeting, feel free to have some dinner, make some dinner - let this be a great time for sharing stories and getting to know one another! **As of this writing, these remaining Digital Dinners still have space:** 8/20 Reconciling Ministries, and 8/25 Building & Property. Each dinner begins at 6:00 pm, and wraps up by 7:30 pm. Sign up for the Digital Dinner of your choice by emailing the church office: office@fumcboulder.org. Sign ups close 48 hours before each dinner. As the date of your Digital Dinner approaches, Church Administrator Jessica Harbeson will email you with the Zoom meeting information. Join the fun!

Giving to FUMC During the Pandemic ~ Just a reminder that FUMC can still receive your offering gifts to support God's work in the world, even in these unsettling days. Mail is still being checked weekly in the church office, so you can mail checks, made payable to First United Methodist Church, to 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. You can also give online via our website: <https://fumcboulder.org/about/donating/>.