

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

1421 Spruce Street Boulder, CO 80302

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www.fumcboulder.org

10:30 am Worship

Sunday, February 7, 2021

WORDS FOR MEDITATION

“Praise Song for the Day”

by Elizabeth Alexander

A Poem for Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration

Each day we go about our business,
walking past each other, catching each other’s
eyes or not, about to speak or speaking.

All about us is noise. All about us is
noise and bramble, thorn and din, each
one of our ancestors on our tongues.

Someone is stitching up a hem, darning
a hole in a uniform, patching a tire,
repairing the things in need of repair.

Someone is trying to make music somewhere,
with a pair of wooden spoons on an oil drum,
with cello, boom box, harmonica, voice.

A woman and her son wait for the bus.
A farmer considers the changing sky.
A teacher says, *Take out your pencils. Begin.*

We encounter each other in words, words
spiny or smooth, whispered or declaimed,
words to consider, reconsider.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark
the will of some one and then others, who said
I need to see what's on the other side.

I know there's something better down the road.
We need to find a place where we are safe.
We walk into that which we cannot yet see.

Say it plain: that many have died for this day.
Sing the names of the dead who brought us here,
who laid the train tracks, raised the bridges,

picked the cotton and the lettuce, built
brick by brick the glittering edifices
they would then keep clean and work inside of.

Praise song for struggle, praise song for the day.
Praise song for every hand-lettered sign,
the figuring-it-out at kitchen tables.

Some live by *love thy neighbor as thyself*,
others by first do no harm or take no more
than you need. What if the mightiest word is love?

Love beyond marital, filial, national,
love that casts a widening pool of light,
love with no need to pre-empt grievance.

In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air,
any thing can be made, any sentence begun.
On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp,

praise song for walking forward in that light.

WELCOME

Rev. Michael Mather

PRELUDE

Nocturne in E minor (part 1), Op. 72, No. 1
Jordan Ortman, piano

Frédéric Chopin
(1810-1849)

THE CALL

Rev. Michael Mather

Black History Month

Maggie Lena Walker **(1864-1934)**

Maggie Lena Walker was a remarkable woman. She was disabled and paralyzed, but still she rose. The daughter of a woman held in slavery, she attended school and graduated in 1883, having been trained as a teacher. She married a brick contractor in 1886 and left her teaching job, at which point she became more active within the Independent Order of St. Luke, an organization dedicated to the social and financial advancement of African Americans. In 1899, Maggie Walker became grand secretary of the organization—a position that she would hold for the rest of her life. During her tenure, she founded the organization's newspaper and opened a highly successful bank and a department store. She was the first black woman to form a bank, and the first woman of any race to be a bank president in the U.S. She even ran for governor of Virginia. Walker's accomplishments are astounding. She died on December 15, 1934.



February Special Offering benefits Heartfelt Café

The February special offering will support our church's Heartfelt Café, the third-Sunday-of-the-month soup kitchen that serves lunch to anyone in need of a meal. Heartfelt Café has adapted to continue serving during the pandemic. All meals are to-go, but still include hot soup. The Heartfelt crew looks forward to returning to in-person dining for guests when it is safe to do so. Your financial support is vital to this ministry of compassion and

connection. **To contribute:** please make your check payable to First United Methodist Church, and write “February special offering” in the memo line. You can mail your check to the church at 1421 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302. If you’d prefer to give online through our website, click on the green “Give” tab in the upper right corner of the homepage, click the “Donate Now” button, and type in the amount you’d like to give on the line for “February Mission Offering.” Thank you for your generous support of this special offering.

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. Mail is still being checked several times each week 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://funcboulder.org/about/donating/>. Thank you.