

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

JULY 4, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Anderson Auditorium



MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER



Welcome to worship - perhaps *back* to worship, if this is a return to in-person gathering for you. The Covid protocols for Montreat Conference Center this summer enable us to care for one another, recognizing that not everyone is yet able to be vaccinated and that we are an intergenerational community.

Seating: You are free to sit and distance as you like and as may be comfortable.

Masks: Until further notice, all persons (staff, congregants, conferees, etc.) in worship, conferences, and clubs will wear masks indoors. If you arrived without one, you can pick one up at the Front Desk of the auditorium.

Singing: This morning, you are invited to sing, gently and masked, short responses and short portions of hymns. Other singing in the service will be done by assisting musicians. As we find our way back to singing over the next weeks, we will engage the words and music of hymns in a variety of ways: listening, reading, humming, singing.

Hearing Loop: Anderson Auditorium is equipped with a hearing loop. To use this technology, a hearing aid must be set to "T".

After worship: You are invited to greet our preacher, Rev. CeCe Armstrong, outside along the street-side walk to Lookout Road.

Childcare for children six months of age through completed kindergarten is available today at the Updike Building from 10:15 a.m. until thirty minutes after worship.

Please remember to silence your cell phones.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

The Peace Delegation

John Williams

*CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 133, Isaiah 40, Lloyd Stone

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
Running down the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
Running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Which falls on the mountains of Zion.
**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
Life evermore.**

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
Life evermore.**

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
Running down the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
Running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Which falls on the mountains of Zion.

**For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
Life evermore.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 643

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, we are a house divided, disregarding your repeated call to unity. We have turned away from you. We are a fearful people, terrified by the loss of community, in need of your healing and wholeness. In your mercy forgive what we have been. By your steadfast love guide us along the path of unity. By your forgiving grace direct our footsteps this day toward redemption, that we may find in you our eternal refuge and healing strength, to the glory of your holy name...*silent prayers of confession*

Hymn 397

O look and wonder how good it is! O look and wonder how good it is!
¡Miren qué bueno, qué bueno es! ¡Miren qué bueno, qué bueno es!

How good it is when kindred dwell in peace with one another;
it is like precious oil when running fresh on Aaron's beard. *refrain*

How good it is when kindred dwell in peace with one another,
fresh like the morning dew that falls on Zion's holy hill. *refrain*

How good it is when all earth's people dwell in peace together:
that is where God will pour the blessing, life forevermore. *refrain*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven!**

*HYMN 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Mark 6:1-13

SERMON: "The Power of 2+1"

The Reverend CeCe Armstrong

RESPONDING

ANOINTING

You are invited to move to an anointing station closest to where you are sitting, and then return to your seat following the anointing with oil.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Walk Together, Children

African-American spiritual
arr. Andre J. Thomas

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

*HYMN 340

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

*BENEDICTION

Maria Ling/Swee Hong Lim
(Hymn 549)

唯 願 神 的 愛 撫 慰 你 的 靈。
每 時 刻 他 的 愛 住 在 你 心 裡。
他 的 榮 光 照 耀 你， 慈 愛 伴 隨 你，
無 論 何 處 他 的 靈 都 永 遠 伴 隨 你。

May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul;
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's Spirit be upon you as you leave this place.

*copyright information: Portions of this morning's liturgy adapted from The Book of Common Worship, © 2018
Presbyterian Publishing Corporation/Westminster John Knox Press; OneLicense 716815.*

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Associate Pastor, St. James Presbyterian Church, Charleston, SC
Ashley Brown, Summer Ministry Team, Montreat Conference Center
Richard DuBose, President, Montreat Conference Center
Hannah Garrity, Liturgical Artist, Liturgy Team, Montreat Conference Center
Keith Grogg, Pastor, Montreat Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
Sam Henry, AV Crew, Montreat Conference Center
Ann Laird Jones, Liturgy Team, Montreat Conference Center
Alec Peters, Summer Liturgy Team, Montreat Conference Center
The Rev. Carol Steele, Vice President for Program, Montreat Conference Center
Eric Wall, Conference Center Musician, Montreat Conference Center

THIS MORNING'S OFFERING supports the worship ministry of Montreat Conference Center

SUNDAY LUNCH is served at 11:45 a.m. in the Galax Dining Room of Assembly Inn. Lunch is \$15.00 for adults (12+) and \$7.50 for children (5-11).

THANK YOU to members of Montreat Presbyterian Church for ushering this morning!

THIS WEEK IN MONTREAT is our weekly update of summer events, available online: montreat.org/category/twim.

THE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES, Arts, Music, and Theology will be on Tuesday, July 6 in Convocation Hall at 7:00pm, "In Memory of Dr. Jim (Jimbo) Bryan: A Celebration of Life," led by Dr. Henry Wilde and Richard DuBose, followed by "Anatomy of a Supreme Court Case Affecting Many," led by Jim Hamilton, introduced by Dr. Perrin Wright.

SPECIAL EVENT: Wednesday, July 7, 9 pm around Lake Susan, "Together Around the Lake: Remembering the 3.9 million who have Died" Candlelight service of prayer and remembering those who have died from Covid-19 here and around the world.

ARTISTS' STATEMENT

"He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits." (Mark 6:7, NRSV) The Mark text's commissioning of the disciples is embodied as two plus one in our worship space today through the ritual of anointing. As we meet face to face, the presence of God as the One is here in the space between us, connecting us, making us whole.

The art today reiterates the connection of two plus one. Three circles spin across the stage. Each circle is set as a table with twelve curls as spaces surrounding it. Within the circles hands represent the miracles that Jesus is able to work in spaces of belief. An intricate eye of disbelief represents the response Jesus' power receives in his hometown. In these banners, we portray the idea that the Lord's presence permeates both the belief and the unbelief.

"I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' Whether they hear or refuse to hear... they shall know that there has been a prophet among them." (Ezekiel 2:4b-5, NRSV). In these days, we find ourselves a house divided. "... if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." (Mark 3:25) It is painful, deeply disappointing, endlessly sad, and devastating to realize just how divided. God is present in the space between each pair of us at any different time. Can we hate another in the face of—in the midst of—God's everpresent love? We acknowledge God's presence in each moment we are together, may we live into the everlasting love harbored between us. May we allow God's love to flow through us and among us. May we break down our barriers to God's love and embody it in an everlasting circle, healed and whole.

Ezekiel 2:1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD. "Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.