

Common Threads Worship Series: An Intergenerational Worship Series

This program is made possible through a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Evening One: Joy

Ordo and liturgy, except where otherwise noted, are by Billy Kluttz and Elizabeth Boyd, Seabury Resources for Aging

The worship space will consist of 5 tables with seating for 8 to 10 people around each table. The communion table and baptismal font will be in the middle of the room. The tables will be decorated to correspond to the Scriptural theme for the evening.

—

GATHERING SONG: There's a Thread of Hurting¹

A worship leader (Billy) will open the service with by teaching a paperless song. The percussionist will accompany on drum and/or auxiliary instruments and encourage participation on auxiliary percussion instruments.

Part one:

There's a thread of hurting

There's a thread of love

There's a thread of restive longing

Coming from above

Part two:

Common sorrow; common love

Common calling

Coming from above

MOMENT OF SILENCE - Beth

A singing bowl/bell is rung three times and a moment of silence is observed.

¹ Music and lyrics by Billy Kluttz

FILLING OF THE FONT - Beth

A participant ends the moment of silence by filling the baptismal font in the middle of the worship space.

PAPERLESS CALL TO WORSHIP² - Sarah or Liz, percussionists

A participant leads a paperless call to worship, gesturing to the congregation when a response is indicated.

This night, we gather ourselves for worship with these words:

We are always rejoicing.

Try that with me:

We are always rejoicing.

Let's breathe in

And let's breathe out

I invite you to silently contemplate those words: We are always rejoicing

Try saying it once to yourself as you breathe in: We are always rejoicing

And once to yourself as you breathe out: We are always rejoicing

Breathing in

And breathing out

...

Together, let us center ourselves for worship.

Holy One, our lives are not simple

You know that

Love and loss, anticipation and disappointment

Seem to be twin birds

Arriving together and making nests in our lives

And so, we come together this night not to deny what is evident

But to claim what is possible:

For, with You, **we are always rejoicing.**

² Call to Worship by Billy Kluttz

Not in a saccharin way, but through deep-seated living

We are always rejoicing.

We can show up, be honest, live fully in this moment

Through honest relationships, vulnerable storytelling

We give witness to the breadth of our lives

And we bring our whole selves: crestfallen and yet still creative

We are always rejoicing.

Because You are near, and we are not alone

We are always rejoicing.

Because You have given us good work to do, neighbors to love, and justice to seek

We are always rejoicing.

Because our stories continue in the comforting embrace of Your unending

And so, we breathe deeply

We shrug our shoulders and release

We give ourselves fully in mind and body to this time

To speaking and listening, to learning and growing

Together.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 6: 8-10

A participant reads the Scripture for the evening.

INTRODUCTION OF STATIONS

Billy introduces the theme for the evening, the stations, and the suggested use of stations. Participants are invited to begin at the station of their choice. At the 10/15 minute mark, the bell will be rung and participants will be given the opportunity to choose a different station.

The stations will consist of:

(1) an art station for participants to reflect creatively on our Scripture and theme for the day,

(2) a guided discussion station inspired by *Listening to Your Life: Daily Meditations with Frederick Buechner* (we will also give participants a copy of the book to read during our series). Beth will facilitate this station,
(3) a storytelling station for participants to share their experiences and connect their stories with our Scripture and theme (we will provide light refreshments for this station to create a safe and intimate feeling environment). The evening celebrant will facilitate this station with the use of provided questions,
(4) a music/drumming station to respond musically to our text and theme. This station is led by the percussionist for the evening (Sarah or Liz),
(5) a prayer and meditation station for individual reflection and prayer.

PAPERLESS SONG

The initial song is reprised to invite participants to end their station time and refocus their attention toward the center and larger gathered community.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION³

A guest celebrant leads a celebration of Holy Communion using on our participatory liturgy. Participants share communion around their station tables.

INVITATION

Liz or Sarah: You are invited

Many: You are invited

Liz or Sarah: You are needed

Many: You are needed

Liz or Sarah: You are wanted

Many: You are wanted

Liz or Sarah: You aren't just invited

You are needed

You aren't just welcomed

You are vital

³ Communion liturgy by Billy Kluttz and Elizabeth Pruchnicki

There is no meal without you here
For you are the coin, For which the house-sweeping God swept
You are the sheep, for which the shepherd God searched

Liz or Sarah: You are invited

Many: You are invited

Liz or Sarah: You are needed

Many: You are needed

Liz or Sarah: You are wanted

Many: You are wanted

Celebrant: So, come, with your questions and anger
Come, with your wounds and your wounded
Come, with the stories closest to your heart

For Christ is ready to dine with us
Christ is ready to dine with You
So that we might hear a grander story
So that all might be one
So that all might be fed

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Billy: May our God be with you, so that we might say:

Thanks be to God! (say once and then invite the congregation to repeat)

Lift up your hearts declaring praise with your whole body

Thanks be to God! (say once and then invite the congregation to repeat)

Let us give thanks to the One True God so that together we might sing

Thanks be to God! (say once and then invite the congregation to repeat)

Celebrant: We do give You thanks

With our stories, our silence, our second starts

And we praise You for Your persistence in the storytelling

And Your Grace that endures past denouement and conclusion

Celebrant: When Adam felt the first pangs of loneliness
We were not alone

Many: We were not alone

When the prison cell sought to alienate Joseph
We were not alone

Many: We were not alone

When Hannah thought her life had no meaning
We were not alone

Many: We were not alone

When the unwanted children came
When the disregarded women spoke
When the lepers claimed their healing
When Jesus wept
We were not alone

Many: We were not alone

And even in the loneliness of Christ's tomb
We were not alone

Many: We were not alone

For nothing can separate us, Dear One
Not our own expectations
Not the mirror's reflection
Not the strongest closet door

Billy:

And so, I wonder

When was God present in your joy?

I invite you to share silently or aloud

A word or phrase that reminds you of God's presence in your stories of
joy

[SHARING]

Celebrant: Thanks be to God for the stories and the silence
Shared here and shared abroad
Blessed be

SANCTUS

Celebrant: And so, we not only speak, but we also sing
To the glory of the one who holds all of our stories
And brings them toward reconciliation and peace

Billy (sung): Holy, holy, holy⁴
God of Power and Might
Heaven and earth are full of Glory
Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the One
Who comes in God's name
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: We know that You are present, Holy One
And because of Your Presence, we are able to proclaim
The mystery of faith

Billy: (sung)
Jesus Christ has died⁵
Jesus Christ is ris'n
Jesus Christ is present always
The story has no end

⁴ Musical setting by Billy Kluttz

⁵ Musical setting and additional lyrics by Billy Kluttz

INSTITUTION NARRATIVE

Celebrant: On the night before He was betrayed, Jesus and his friends
told stories

During a time that was full of joy and sorrow, change and hope
Jesus gathered his friends for a meal

And there, He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it
For only in the breaking can we share
And Jesus said, "Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you.
Every time you do this, do it in remembrance of me."

And in the same way, when the supper was nearing its end
Jesus took a cup of wine
He gave thanks and He shared it
For giving begins by passing that which is in front of us

And He said, "Drink from this cup, all of you,
For it is the cup of the new covenant,
Poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Every time you do this, do it and remember me."

And so, we pray to You, Holy One, like Jesus did

LORD'S PRAYER

EPICLESIS

Celebrant: We do these things together, Holy One
Out of Your enduring companionship

And so, in Your Presence,
The Trifold Persistence of Being and Belonging,
We ask one more time

For You to pour out Your Spirit
Upon these beloved people
And upon this bread and cup
Make them be for us the wellsprings of communion
So that we might make sacred kin
Of the lonely world You have called Your Own

For these things we do pray, together
With You and with one another

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ
All honor and glory are Yours Alone, Holy One
Now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Elements are shared by participants around each table.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

Liz or Sarah: You are invited

Many: You are invited

Liz or Sarah: You are needed

Many: You are needed

Liz or Sarah: You are wanted

Many: You are wanted

Celebrant: You aren't just invited

You are needed

You aren't just welcomed

You are vital

That is how the Kingdom comes

Together

Through our showing up

Through Your improvised grace

Through our feeble response

People of God,
There is no meal without you here
For you are the coin, For which the house-sweeping God swept
You are the sheep, for which the shepherd God searched

Go and share that story
Go and tell others
Go and do likewise
Amen

CLOSING PAPERLESS SONG: There's a Thread of Hurting⁶

A closing song is taught and sung to end the time of worship.

Part one:

*There's a thread of hurting
There's a thread of love
There's a thread of restive longing
Coming from above*

Part two:

*Common sorrow; common love
Common calling
Coming from above*

BENEDICTION AND CHARGE

The guest celebrant offers a benediction and charge.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Participants share the peace as they leave the worship space.

⁶ Music and lyrics by Billy Kluttz