July 18, 2021

“Exploring Antiracism: Welcome to the Table!”

People's Antiracism Collective
Gathering Music “The Lord is My Shepherd”  
arr. Howard Goodall
Eric Vandre, guitar

Ringing of the Bell  
Signifies the beginning of the service

Words of Welcome  
Mary Maren Bjork

***Call to Worship

If the human body – a body of blood and muscle – is to live, it needs salt.
If the body of Christ – a body of peace and justice – is to live, it needs us!
If the Earthly creation – bustling and blooming – is to flourish, it needs the sun’s light.
If the new creation we are in Christ is to flourish, it needs the Spirit’s light!
Jesus says we are salt of the Earth, light of the world.
Our faith, our love, our hope are essential as salt and light.
But if salt isn’t salty? It isn’t what it’s meant to be.
And if a light doesn’t shine? It isn’t what it’s meant to be.
Jesus says we are salt of the Earth, light of the world.
Briny and bright, we are God’s faithful people.
We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ: a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people, giving glory to God!

***Opening Song  
“You Are Welcome Here”  
(see next page)
Sing! Prayer and Praise #26
Keely Vandre, vocals
Eric Vandre, vocals

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

***Prayer of Longing

God, we confess that sometimes we close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people’s worries, against the winds of change. God, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation within comfortable places and the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives. Amen.

Please continue in silent prayer and mindful breathing
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
no matter where you are, on life's journey...
You are welcome here, no matter who you are,
come and join with us,
we're united in the church of Christ.

1. Come now all people, join in the song, come be a part of the family.
2. We pray for justice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Savior.
3. Lifting each other; doing what's right; standing together, whatever may come;
   praising our Savior; shining our light,

   share in the joy of Christ.

You are
You are
You are

***Sitting or standing***
***Sung Response  “Be Still and Know” (sing three times in English) Sing! Prayer and Praise #111

***Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace

Mary Maren: The peace of Christ be with you!
All: And also with you!

Proclaiming God’s Love

A Time with Young People  Lori Mildon

We invite children forward to gather with Lori

Blessing One Another

Children: God be with you  All: And also with you

Children return to their families to either remain in worship or play on playground
Scriptures
Psalm 23 & Ephesians 2: 14–22 ~ NRSV

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
    God makes me lie down in green pastures;
and leads me beside still waters;
    and restores my soul.
The Lord leads me in right paths
    for God’s name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
    I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
    your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
    in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
    my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
    all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
    my whole life long.

Morning Message  “Exploring Antiracism: Welcome to the Table!”
Jenni Shaller

Between June 2021–June 2022, Our Antiracism Collective will engage our members and friends as we embark on a year of congregational examination, exploration and education on antiracist attitudes and behaviors that could lead to transforming our church identity.

Special Music  “Room at the Table”
~ written and performed by Carrie Newcomer

Responding To God’s Love

Prayers of the People
Mary Maren Bjork

You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world. Raise your hand or stand and project your brief joy or concern as loudly as possible. Mary will follow your prayer with the words, “God, in your love...”

Mary Maren:  God, in your love,    All:  Hear our prayer
Lord’s Prayer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
   From each one to each one.
   Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days —
   Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
   Forever your name is All in One. AMEN

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Response       “Praise God”       by John Mueller
                           musicians sing through once, then all sing together

Praise, God, for these gifts;
we lift them up for heaven’s blessing.
Praise God, for these gifts;
we lift them up to serve you, Lord.

***Prayer of Dedication

God of all, we bring these offerings because of the love you have
poured out on us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Your
gift calls for a response that cannot be contained in envelopes or
baskets. Nothing less than all we have and all we are is good enough
to dedicate to your will and purposes. With awe and trembling; yet
with joy, relief and gratitude; we bring you our whole selves. Use us
to realize your love, justice and peace among all people. Amen

***Sitting or standing
Going Forth to Share God’s Love

***Singing

“Happy Birthday”

..Happy birthday dear Tom and Cheri

***Benediction

***Closing Song

“Deep Peace” Sing! Prayer and Praise #201

Vs. 1 & 2

1. Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.
2. Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.
3. Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.

Peace, peace, deep peace, my peace I give to you.
Love, love, strong love, my love I give to you.
Joy, joy, great joy, my joy I give to you.

Not as the world gives, I give to you, not as the world gives, I give to you.

world gives, I give to you. Peace, peace, deep
world gives, I give to you. Love, love, strong
world gives, I give to you. Joy, joy, great

peace, my peace I give to you.
love, my love I give to you.
joy, my joy I give to you.
***Irish Blessing  musicians sing through once, then all sing together

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God’s hand

***Postlude  "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free"
~written by Billy Taylor and Dick Dallas, performed by Nina Simone

**PRAYER CORNER**
*Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

- Andi Favilla's father Tom Ford in Michigan, as he recovers from knee replacement surgery and looks ahead to replacement of the other knee and a hip.
- For the community of Surfside, Florida. May those who have died rest in peace. May those grieving and those still seeking information about missing persons draw strength from those who love them.
- For our global and local neighbors: for the COVID vaccine to reach everyone, for people living in poverty experience relief from intense suffering, for a just peace in the Gaza Strip, and for all who live without sufficient resources or with constant threats of violence.
- Accountability for killings of black and brown people, for legislative police reform, and for all of us to work to build an antiracist society.
- We celebrated birthdays with Tom Dusbabek and Cheri Schwartz on the 11th!

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Keely & Eric Vandre (beautiful music), Kathy Iverson (lay reading), Mary Maren Bjork, Lori Mildon & Jenni Shaller (People’s Antiracism Collective) and Kimberly Jackson (Tech)

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