



**April 25, 2021**

CCL license 2710756

**W**elcome to worship today! We are grateful you are here as part of the gathered and scattered community of God. Please note that our worship will be recorded / live streamed so that those who could not make it would be part of the worship service.

A couple helpful hints to make sure that we are all safe here together:

- Please keep your mask on and over your entire nose and mouth for the duration of service.
- During the music portion of the service, we invite you to listen quietly in your seats.
- Please practice social distancing.
- Feel free to drop-off your offering on your way out, and thank you!

**Gathering Song**

**Psalm 121: *I Lift Up My Eyes Up the Hills***

**Gathering**

**The Lord is my shepherd.**

**I lack nothing.**

**He lets me rest in grassy meadows;**

**he leads me to restful waters;**

**he keeps me alive.**

**He guides me in proper paths**

**for the sake of his good name.**

**Even when I walk through the darkest valley,**

**I fear no danger because you are with me.**

**Your rod and your staff—**

**they protect me.**

**You set a table for me**

**right in front of my enemies.**

**You bathe my head in oil;**

**my cup is so full it spills over!**

**Yes, goodness and faithful love**

**will pursue me all the days of my life,**

**and I will live in the Lord's house**

**as long as I live.**

**Hymn**

***What a Friend We Have In Jesus***

## **Confession (enfleshed)**

God of Justice,  
God of Compassion,  
God of Sacred and Scandalous ways,  
We have so much still to learn.

By your grace, we have come to know love more deeply than once before -  
**its mess, its complexity, its stubborn and tender truths transform us more each day.**

Through fires that refine and valleys of death, you have guided us.

**You draw us into the heart of Wisdom,**  
Saving us from the lies of destruction.

**Turning us towards hope that liberates.**

But still, O God, we struggle to trust in you..

**And so, when we are afraid. Or hurt. Or weary...**

**We betray the very One who brought us thus far.**

**We confess, we still shame Jesus, when he turns over tables.**

We confess, we still condemn Jesus, when he breaks the rules to which we are loyal.

**We confess, while Jesus is torn from the arms of his mother by ICE,**

killed by his own lovers - so afraid of desiring trans women,  
**and sitting lonely on the street with no family to welcome them home,**  
our loyalties are often elsewhere.

**Our priorities are not your own.**

Search our hearts, O God, and see if there is any fear within us.

Meet us there with your good news that sets the captives free.

Forgive us from the harm we have done as we seek to harm no more.

*(pause in silent prayer)*

Beloveds, God does not abandon us to the systems that destroy.

**God does not bind us to our regrets.**

Or forever hold us to what we once believed.

God says, come and follow!

Know forgiveness and sin no more.

**Love abounds. And Justice shall be manifest!**

Wherever new life is desired,

may the peace of Christ be welcomed among us.

**Thanks be to God who leads us on paths of resurrection.**

## **Song**

### ***See the Love***

by John Arndt, David Gungor and David Campbell 2016,  
sung by Edmonds United Methodist Church

## **Pastoral Prayer---“I come so that all may be one”**

Individualism is destructive.

Send greed and selfishness away.

That learned refusal to acknowledge  
your own need for help -  
let it be gone as well.

When possible,  
counter all impulses towards privatized survival  
with acts of love - collective and expansive -  
with caring for others and accepting care.

Remember we need each other.

Remember the needs of your neighbors (literal and metaphorical).

Remember the vulnerable.

Remember, we are in this together, even when we don't act like it.

People depend on your choices -  
you depend on the choices of others.  
This, a Sacred and terrible truth woven into our flesh.

So let this time be an opening  
to all the sources of connection we have lost in this era of  
pushing-down,  
pushing-through,  
pushing-away,  
and pushing-the-pace.

Let all that is soft, all that is slow, all that is gentle,  
all that is kind, all that is careful,  
be welcome home in each of us.  
We have such creative, powerful, generous and brave capacities within us.  
We can choose to do things differently.

- Rev. M Barclay, *enfleshed*

### **Connection of the Week**

*What might you be carrying that you need Jesus to carry for you? What peace might you be able to share with one another?*

### **Passing of the Peace**

*If you are worshipping with us online we invite you to greet one another and offer a word of peace, too.  
The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you!**

### **Scripture**

John 10:11-18

### **Sermon**

Pastor Erin

### **Song**

***I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me***

Arrangement by David Neff

### **Blessing**