



Galena United Methodist Church August 8, 2021

The Reflection

WE GATHER

Prelude

He Leadeth Me

UMH #128

Cody Clayton, Pianist

Words: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862/ William B. Bradbury, 1864 Public Domain

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Catiana

Entering the Journey: Threshold Moment

We are in the third week of our “Quest” theme that is exploring our relationship with the wider world and a wider perspective of our own communities. Let us continue to imagine ourselves “far from home,” meeting each new insight with wonder, letting our experiences lead us to deeper reflection about ourselves.

Threshold Song: *Quest*

Words & Music: Dr. Marcia McFee/Arr. by David C. Hoton for quest series

1st time cantor/2nd time – all sing

Far from home, we know we're seeing,

ev - ery - where is full of mea - ning;

diff' - rent folk ex - pand our world and awe of

all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

When we begin to broaden our experience of lands and peoples in our travel, or in our own towns and cities, we may move through a personal crisis if the plurality of religious thought and practice has not come into close view in our lives before. And yet, if we continue to reflect and open, what feels so different may not be as far from us as we first imagined. The light we seek and life-sustaining river that runs through the “Kin-dom” of God is full of common themes across religions: peaceful coexistence, food and shelter, love and compassion for those suffering and oppressed. How can deeper reflection about our own hesitation to connect to the wider human family free us to explore more possibilities for a better world?

Threshold Song: *Quest* *Repeat*

Words & Music: Dr. Marcia McFee/Arr. by David C. Hoton for quest series

**All: Far from home we know we're seeing,
everywhere is full of meaning;
different folx expand our world and awe of all
The creation and its beings.**

Opening Prayer

Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path,
inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other.
Decenter us even if we become uncomfortable.
Show us how to be humble and willing to accept
that all beings are sacred as created by you
so that we will grow in peace,
expand in love, and deepen in understanding.
Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Cantemos al Señor (Let's Sing unto the Lord)

UMH #149

Words: Carlos Rosas; trans. By Roberto Escamilla, Elie. S. Eslinger, & George Lockwood/Music: Carlos Rosas; arr. By Raquel Mora Martinez UM Publishing House

**Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of glad rejoicing,
let's sing a hymn of love at the new day's fresh beginning.
God made the sky above, the stars, the sun, the oceans;
And God saw it was good, for those works were filled with beauty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia!**

**Let's sing unto the Lord a hymn of adoration,
Which shows our love and faith and the hope of all creation.
Through all that has been made, the Lord is praised for greatness,
And so we sing to God, who bestows such lovely blessing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia!
Let's sing unto the Lord. Alleluia!**

Prayer of Confession Words of Assurance

One: We come to the water again today.

Today's scripture comes from the Book of Revelation – a powerful vision of a new creation,
where the divisions are wiped away and all beings are one.

It says, "To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Our baptism reminds us that we are already part of the spring of the water of life.

And our thirst that comes from forgetting that source can be quenched even now. Let us pray:

**All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, through what we have done and left undone.
Forgive us when we create boundaries of "us" and "them" and assume scarcity
where you offer abundance. Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.
Lead us to travel in your ways. Amen.**

One: Know this: There is a spring of life that flows throughout creation
and is available to all—to us—when we need it most.
In the midst of our fear, Jesus calls us to be a new creation. He is our constant companion,
inviting us to reach out to one another, traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love.

....

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen!

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!
And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

Children's Time of Unpacking *Bring Forth the Kingdom of God"* *FWS 2190*
You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, Bring forth the City of God!

First Reading *Isaiah 65: 17-25* *NRSV*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Music for the Journey *Jesus the Light of the World* *Worship & Song #3056*
Words/Music: Ken Bible & George Elderkin©1998 Pilot Point Music, admin. by Music Services

See the bright and morning star Jesus the light of the world.
Christ is shining in our hearts. Jesus the light of the world.

Refrain: **Walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dew-drops of mercy are bright;
Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus the light of the world.**

**No more darkness, no more night, Jesus the light of the world.
Christ will shine forever bright, Jesus the light of the world.** *Refrain*

Second Reading

Revelations 21: 22-26

NRSV

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

Witness to the Word

The Reflection

Pastor Catiana

WE RESPOND

Reflecting on the Journey

Reflection time is a way for us to draw ever nearer to the Holy and to the deepest yearnings of our souls. ...Let us start with a musical prayer and then we'll spend a few minutes journaling, either with pen to paper, or quietly in the recesses of our minds and hearts.

Song of Reflection & Prayer

"Stepping In"

by Christopher Grundy

8 B sus4 A sus2 E

There is a prayer _____ like a wide _____ riv-er. _____ It nev-er ends,

11 A/C# B/D# A sus2

_____ does not _____ be-gin. _____ A-round the world, it's al - ways

14 E add2/G# F#m7(no5) B sus4 A A sus2 E

flow-ing, and I _____ am step-ping in. _____ We are _____ step-ping in.

Travel Journal prompts in the Worship Guide:

Recall a time when you were in unfamiliar surroundings. Were you excited to meet someone new? Or did you have uncomfortable or fearful feelings about an encounter?

Have you had an encounter with other religious practices? Do you know people who practice other faith traditions? What does your answer mean for your view of the world?

*Whether we like to admit it or not, people “not like us” or places “far from home” can bring up feelings of fear.
How do you think this affects our world? Can you imagine being part of changing this? How?*

Prayer Music

Stepping In

Christopher Grundy

**There is a prayer like a wide river
it never ends
does not begin
around the world it's always flowing
and I am stepping in, we are stepping in.**

**We are praying for those in distant places
different languages and faces every hour of the day,
and we are praying with enemies and strangers
in gratitude, in danger calling God's ten thousand names**

**There is a prayer like a wide river
it never ends
does not begin
around the world it's always flowing
and I am stepping in, we are stepping in.**

Prayers of the People

Includes a prayer from the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for the week.

Prayer is at the very heart of the ecumenical movement. Jesus prayed that we – his followers – may all be one. When we pray with and for one another, we can feel God's gift of unity.

This week's prayers were written for

Prayer of Jesus

Our God has many names. You are invited to address God in your native language or in the form closest to your heart as we join in the prayer of Jesus:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

FROM THE RITUAL OF THE FORMER METHODIST CHURCH

Reprise of refrain:

**There is a prayer like a wide river
it never ends
does not begin
around the world it's always flowing
and I am stepping in, we are stepping in.**

Offering our Gifts

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

We know that proclaiming resurrection and daring to follow your light that shines on our path, doesn't mean that things are all OK. But it does bring us the energy we need if we are to continue to follow your Spirit of justice and find your ways of service. So let us continue to live generous lives.

There is a wooden box at the back of the sanctuary provided for your giving or you may donate by mail or electronic giving through your bank. Together, we spread the gospel of peace and encourage cooperation locally, in the United States and globally.

“Change for the Better”

Mission choice this quarter, July, August, and September is
Mujila Falls Agricultural Research Center, Zambia (#15016A)
Addressing hunger and poverty with sustainable agriculture and leadership training.
(if added to your tithe check, please indicate amount of donation to ministry on MEMO)

***Singing our Thanksgiving** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #94 Words:
Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. By Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978/Music: Geistlich Kirchengesangen, 1823;
harm. By Vaughn Williams

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**All: The riches we have received we gladly share, in pursuit of peace in the world.
 May your blessing, O God, go with these gifts, and with each of us,
 as hope across borders that would divide. Amen.**

WE VENTURE FORTH

Closing Song

Come, Let Us Dream

Worship & Song #3157

Words: John Middleton/ Music English Folk Melody;

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**Come, let us dream God's dream again
Come, one and all, let us ascend
the mountain top where those of old
saw God's new day on earth unfold.**

**The lame shall walk, the blind shall see,
the doors swing wide, all prisoners free,
the lowly raised, the proud brought low.
This is God's dream: let justice flow.**

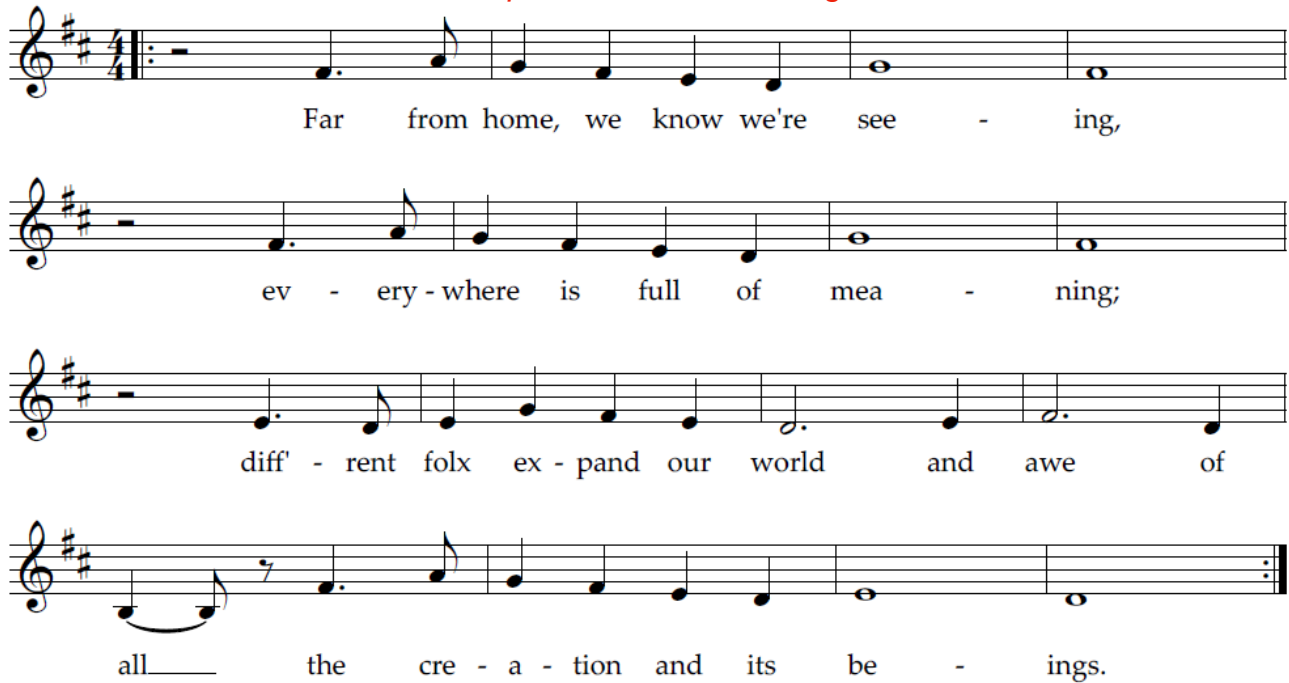
**When hatred ends and war shall cease,
so all may dwell in deepest peace,
then be assured the time is near
when perfect love casts out all fear.**

**But know the cost of claiming sight
of God's new day, of wrongs made right,
for some have paid the highest price,
their lives for us, a sacrifice.**

**Prophets are scorned in their own lands
and martyrs slain by righteous hands;
Though dreamers die the dream will live
for we have yet our lives to give.**

Benediction

Threshold Song: *Quest* Words & Music: Dr. Marcia McFee/Arr. by David C. Hoton for quest series
Reprise of Threshold song



Far from home, we know we're see - ing,
ev - ery - where is full of mea - ning;
diff' - rent folk ex - pand our world and awe of
all the cre - a - tion and its be - ings.

Postlude

Shall We Gather at the River UMH # 723 Cody Clayton, Pianist
Words/Music: Robert Lowery, 1864; Public Domain

The Trees of the Field FWS #2279
Words: Steffi Geiser Ruben/Music: Stuart Dauermann

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Galena United Methodist Church
*By God's grace, the Galena United Methodist Church is the Body of Christ striving
 to fulfill Christ's Great Command to love God & love neighbor,
 & Christ's Great Commission to make disciples.*

Mission: "Love God" "Love Neighbor" "Make Disciples"



Affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

Pastor: Rev. Catiana McKay Ministers: The Congregation
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REFLECTIONS