

## Sunday, February 6, 2022 – Race Relations Sunday

### GOD GATHERS US FOR WORSHIP

**Welcome and Call to Worship:** We are here to worship God and to learn from who God is. So we begin with this call to worship, taken from Psalm 107.

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

P: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

L: those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

P: Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

L: for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

All: Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the Lord.

#### Songs:

##### Lord Most High (LUYH 593)

From the ends of the earth, (echo), from the depths of the sea, (echo)  
from the heights of the heavens (echo), your name be praised.  
From the hearts of the weak, (echo), from the shouts of the strong, (echo)  
from the lips of all people (echo), this song we raise, Lord.

Throughout the endless ages, you will be crowned with praises, Lord Most High.  
Exalted in every nation, sovereign of all creation, Lord Most High,  
be magnified (repeat song)

##### Jesus is our King (LUYH 602)

Alleluia! Alleluia Opening our hearts to him, singing  
alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King!

Create in us, O God, a humble heart that sets us free  
to proclaim the wondrous majesty of our Father in heaven.  
Alleluia! Alleluia Opening our hearts to him, singing  
alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King!

We bear the name of Christ. Justified, we meet with him.  
His words and presence calm our fear, revealing God, our Father, here.  
Alleluia! Alleluia Opening our hearts to him, singing  
alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King!

Let kindred voices join, honoring the Lamb of God,  
who teaches us by bread and wine the mystery of his body.  
Alleluia! Alleluia Opening our hearts to him, singing  
alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King!

Pour out your Spirit on us, empowering us to live as one,  
to carry your redeeming love to a world enslaved by sin.  
Alleluia! Alleluia Opening our hearts to him, singing  
alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus is our King!

## **In Christ there is no East or West (LUYH 268)**

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth,  
the chosen family God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.

For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;  
he reconciled us through his Son and met us with his grace.

So, brothers, sisters, praise his name who died to set us free  
from sin, division, hate, and shame, from spite and enmity.

In Christ there is no east or west; he breaks all barriers down;  
by Christ redeemed, by Christ possessed, in Christ we live as one.

### **Call to Confession**

Please be seated. Sin, division, hate and shame – we know our sin comes as no surprise to Jesus. His love and mercy should come as no surprise to us. Therefore, let us make our confession before God and one another.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lord, you are the giver of life and the God of love. You made each person in your image, and you tell us in your word to love each other as you have loved us. Yet, as we think over even this past week, we know we have failed to follow that command. Over our history, human beings made in the image of God were bought and sold, treated as property. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to regard all persons with their true value since they are made in your image. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Families were broken by enslavement, parents never saw their children, family ties broken because of forced separation. The hurt this caused continues. Help us, O God, to regard others with love and kindness. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

God, we believe you have called us to unity. As we name and unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice, forgive us for where we have failed to understand, Lord and help us to regard all persons as made in your image. Create in us brave hearts to acknowledge and address our prejudices. (Moment of silence)

You tell us that love lays down its life for others, and you showed us that on the cross. But we are weak and selfish. We cannot even lay down our preferences and rights for others, let alone our lives. Teach us Lord. Though we are weak, you are strong. Fill us with your love and compassion for all people. As you have loved us, help us to love others. In your name we pray, Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, this is the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! And we are not only forgiven, we are also free to live as new people in Christ. Alleluia!

## **GOD GIVES US HIS WORD**

**Scripture: Psalm 82** A Plea for Justice

God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince." Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!

**Scripture:** Acts 17:22-31

**Message:** "One"

**Song of Commitment:**

### **Song of Hope (LUYH 941)**

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all, working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

God will be our shepherd as we go our way and will not forsake us when we go astray.  
Even though the load of life is hard to bear, we must not forget that God is always there.  
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all, working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**"Listen to the Voices" Interview:** Casey Palmer

## **GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE**

**Prayers of the People and Offering**

**Benediction**

**Benediction Song:**

### **Halle Halle Hallelujah (LUYH 768)**