

Virtual Worship for January 17, 2020

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

Sisters and brothers rejoice.
We live sustained by God's presence and love.
Thanks be to God.
As we mourn the wounds of God's children,
God weeps with us.
As we give thanks for brothers and sisters who have lived in faith.
God gives thanks with us.
As we struggle for justice,
God struggles with us.
As we strive for peace,
God strives with us.
As we work to build the bellowed community,
God works with us.
As we offer our gifts to all,
God blesses us.
Sisters and brother, rejoice.
Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.

(MLK Worship Resources - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program - January 2011)

PRELUDE – Toccata I in G Major, Francesco Paolo Supriani

Keiran Campbell, cellist

Keiran Campbell was drawn to the cello after he stumbled across one in his grandmother's basement and was baffled by its size. Once he turned 8, he began taking lessons -on a much smaller cello- in his native Greensboro, North Carolina. After studying extensively with Leonid Zilper, former solo cellist of the Bolshoi Ballet, he received his Bachelors and Masters at the Juilliard School in New York, working with Darrett Adkins, Phoebe Carrai, and Timothy Eddy. Keiran also spent several springs in Cornwall, England, studying with Steven Isserlis, Ralph Kirshbaum, and David Waterman at the International Musicians Seminar in Prussia Cove. Now based in Toronto, ON, Keiran is Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra's newest core member.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Kate Guthrie

Most Holy and merciful God, we acknowledge and confess our slowness to do good, our blindness to injustice, and our complicity in deferring the dreams and hopes of the oppressed. We confess that we have refused to heed your call to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you our God.

On this day, as we remember the work of faithful servants that have come before us like Martin Luther King Jr., we are reminded that there is still work left to do. We ask that you give us eyes and hearts to recognize racial injustice in our society. Forgive us when we cling to the privileges and advantages we gain from inequity. We confess both our conscious and unconscious complicity in maintaining systems that work for us but not for others.

Lord, grant us the courage and wisdom to work towards the kingdom of which you proclaimed. Amen.

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HYMN – Here in This Place, Hymn 401
Starmount Ensemble

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;

now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

SCRIPTURE READING – Romans 12

The New Life in Christ

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Marks of the True Christian

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

SERMON – *Picking Up the Pieces*
Rev. Dr. Charlie Lee

ANTHEM – *Prelude from Suite No. 1 in G Major, BMV 1007, Johann Sebastian Bach*
Keiran Campbell, cellist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & BENEDICTION
Rev. Dr. Kate Guthrie