

Musical Prelude: Let All Things Now Living Arr. Cindy Berry

Call to Worship: Janet Patterson & Tabitha Carey

Something made the hair stand up on our necks.

Was it you, O God?

People (out loud but muted)

Was it you that we saw blowing over the water?

Was it you that we heard in those steps?

People (out loud but muted)

Was a you that we felt in the beating of our own hearts?

Was it you that called our names?

People (out loud but muted)

Come oh God. Come to search us. Come to know us again.

We were knit in your womb. We have tried to count your works.

People (out loud but muted)

Come oh God, so that we can hear you calling our names.

Here and now.

Hymn VU 436: Abide with Me

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see
O Christ who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need your presence every passing hour;
What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like yourself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me.

4. I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

5. Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Liturgy for lighting the Christ candle.

We give thanks for the light of hope - unrelenting and inexplicable.

Our hope in Christ shines on.

We give thanks for the light of peace - strong and unafraid.

The peace of Christ lights our way.

We give thanks for the life of joy - persistent and unpredictable.

The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

We give thanks for the light of love – hot and holy

The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

Now let us light the Christ candle each week to remind us that all these things are ours in Christ.

Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Hymn VU 508: Just as I am

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Children's Time with Ashley and Tabitha

Hymn VU 506: Take My Life and Let it Be

1. Take my life and let it be
consecrated all for Thee.
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
take my feet and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

3. Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

4. Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

5. Take my love and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Community Prayer: Alan Busche

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and
live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and
faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for
some, to love them as we find them, or as they may
become.

Hymn M.V. 161: I Have Called You By Your Name

1.I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

2.I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

Living Psalm 139

It's something, isn't it, to imagine being known
so thoroughly that the pain you hold
is understood without you having to say a single
word,

without you having to testify
about your decision from last year
or ten years ago or yesterday,
when you said the thing that led
to the other thing that brought you
so low you thought you'd never be known
for more than the pain that crystallized
around your hopes and your heart?

It's something, isn't it, to believe in One
who isn't afraid of your broken parts
or ugly deeds or the cowardice or the fear or the
anger

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be
moved in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice, and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding
on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us
one!

3.I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4.I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

or the hundred other ways
you have tried to make yourself disappear.

when you felt unworthy of a great and abiding love
and had persuaded yourself
that forgiveness was beyond reach and grace,
an undeserved gift?

It's something, isn't it, to be loved by God,
to be both fearfully and wonderfully
made just as you are –

not happier,
not a work in progress,
or with fewer secrets or scars –
but just you, as you are,
welcome at the table?

Prayer of Confession: Janet Patterson

Holy One, you have called us by name.
You will not let us lounge in bed.
You wake us up in the middle of the night to remember...

You will not let us hide under the tree.
You summon us from the shade to be changed...

You will not let us bury our secrets within the earth.
You unearth our fears and speak them aloud...

Forgive us, O God, when we cannot speak.
Reveal the words we need most.
In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: (inspired by Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

Our God knows you by name.
Our God knows what you fear.
For you are fearfully and wonderfully made.
In your name, God's works are revealed

Call for the Offering:

God knows you by name. God knows all that you can do.
God appears in your works for justice.
God is revealed in our hope for change.
Let us carry this spirit into our giving.
Let us praise God with our gifts of tithes and offerings.

Hymn: We Are an Offering

We lift our voices	Lord use our voices	All that we have
We lift our hands	Lord use our hands	All that we are
We lift our lives up to You	Lord use our lives they are Yours	All that we hope to be
We are an offering	We are an offering	We give to you
		We give to you

Dedication of the Offering:

O God, you offer us wonderful gifts.
In these offerings, may we make for change that doesn't yet exist.
May we give it a name. May we move through our fears.
May we dare to call this hope wonderful, in the hope of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Scriptures:

1 Samuel 3:1-20

3 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

2 At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

15 Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' ¹⁷Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

19 As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

Psalm 139: 1-18 The Inescapable God

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night’,
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

John 1:43-51

43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Message: Is this for real?

A New Creed:

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

2. Though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
no turning back, no turning back.

3. The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me,
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Benediction:

Send us, O God.
Send us to search for your name.
Send us to count your works.
Send us to feel you calling our name.

Musical Postlude: May Thy Holy Spirit Paul Tschesnokoff Arr. Jan Sanborn

Breathing In our Faith and Living in Out - Reflective Activity



This week's practice is a meditation on Psalm [139:1-18](#). To begin, find a quiet space and gather your supplies:

Bible, Blank paper or sketchbook journal page, Black pen, Pencil

To engage in the practice:

Sit quietly for a few moments. Take several slow, deep breaths and ask God to make you aware of the Spirit's presence with you.

Read Psalm 139:1-18 slowly and prayerfully—aloud if possible.

Lay one hand on the blank paper and trace around it with the black pen.

Turn your hand over and examine the lines on your palm. Use the pencil to lightly sketch in your palm lines. (The purpose is not to get the lines perfect, but to pay close attention to this one small part of your amazing body.)

As you trace your hand and sketch in your palm lines, know that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Imagine the intimacy of God knitting you together in your mother's womb. Realize that God knows the curve of each finger, each line on your palm.

If you want, you can also use an ink pad and place your thumb and finger prints in the drawing. Look closely at your fingerprints—nobody else in the world has fingers exactly like yours.

Now begin writing out Psalm 139, writing the words around the outside of your hand drawing—up the side of the hand, then around each finger and down the other side. When your text has gone all the way around the hand drawing, simply make a second row of text.

You might want to write all of Psalm 139:1-18, or you might pick out the verses that speak most deeply to you in the moment. (A shortened version for writing out would be verses 1-7 and 13-16.)

After you have written the scripture around your hand, simply place your hand inside the drawing. Allow God to speak to you. Accept the reality that God knows you deeply and loves you deeply.