Preparation for Worship
During this season of social distancing, with the aid of technology we connect in worship. Though separated by location, all are invited to engage in worship together.

Piano Prelude  
*Soliloquy*  
Jay Rouse

The Light of Presence
The lighting of candles signifies the holy presence alive in all.

Call to Worship  
*won't you celebrate with me*  
Lucille Clifton

won’t you celebrate with me  
what i have shaped into  
a kind of life? i had no model.  
born in babylon  
both nonwhite and woman  
what did i see to be except myself?  
i made it up  
here on this bridge between  
starshine and clay,  
my one hand holding tight  
my other hand; come celebrate  
with me that everyday  
something has tried to kill me  
and has failed.

Song of Invocation  
*Spirit of Life*  
Carolyn McDade

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Spirit of Life,} & \quad \text{come unto me.} \\
\text{Sing in my heart} & \quad \text{all the stirrings of compassion.} \\
\text{Blow in the wind,} & \quad \text{rise in the sea;} \\
\text{move in the hand,} & \quad \text{giving life the shape of justice.} \\
\text{Roots hold me close;} & \quad \text{wings set me free;} \\
\text{Spirit of Life,} & \quad \text{come to me, come to me.}
\end{align*}
\]
Scripture Reading
Exodus 1:8-14

Sermon
Are you there God? Nancy E. Petty

Song of Response
Wade in the Water African-American Spiritual
The coded messages in “Wade in the Water” and other spirituals communicated instructive and liberating words to the oppressed and enslaved. New verses by Chalice Overy respond to the story of Moses’ sister and encourage us to watch and work to release all captives.

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children;
 wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.

Watch and pray, don’t close your eyes;
 see a chance to turn the tide.

Wade and watch don’t turn away;
 now’s the time to lead the way.

See the children black, white and brown;
 together, none can turn them ’round.

We proclaim the Jubilee:
 chains are broken and captives freed!

- verses by Chalice Overy

Prayers
Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Call to Justice
Join with the Spirit WADE/Arr. Schultz
Empowered by the spiritual tune, “Wade in the Water,” these words by lyricist, Jann Aldredge-Clanton. invite us to join the Spirit in working for justice. All are encouraged to sing (words on video).

Piano Postlude
Holy Manna Arr. John Carter

The Call to Worship poem was written by African-American poet, Lucille Clifton (1936-2010). Discovered by Langston Hughes (via friend Ishmael Reed, who shared her poems), she is a prolific and widely respected poet whose work emphasizes endurance and strength through adversity.

The Song of Invocation is by songwriter, spiritual feminist and social activist, Carolyn McDade (1935-). She is a lover of language and sound, and is committed to the power of the human voice singing and speaking truth to move society to just and liberating transformation.

Worship Leaders:
Janice Hocutt, Pianist/Organist
Brian Crisp, Minister of Missions & Adult Education
Neal Braswell, Vocalist
Larry E. Schultz, Minister of Music
Chalice Overy, Associate Pastor
Nancy E. Petty, Pastor

Acolyte:
Allen Bailey
Audio/Visual & Livestream Technicians:
Nathan Powers, Henry Stephens-Powers, Bryan Lee, Dana Deaton, Jack Rakestraw

won't you celebrate with me from Book of Light © 1993 Lucille Clifton.
Reprinted and streamed by permission of Copper Canyon Press.

Wade in the Water Tune & Refrain Public Domain; Verses © 2020 Chalice Overy. Used by permission.

Soliloquy by Jay Rouse © 1993 The Lorenz Corporation.

Join with the Spirit Words © 2017 Jann Aldredge-Clanton; Music Arr. © 2018 Larry E. Schultz.


Reprinted and streamed by permission of ONE LICENSE A-701723. All rights reserved.