

August 16, 2020 Celebrate Community Sunday 9:45 AM

PRELUDE

John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal
Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Arr. by Victor Labenske

Welcome by Pastor Mike

CALL TO WORSHIP

led by Maureen Provencher and Maureen Rosenquist

One: We hear the invitation of Jesus to come to the party, enjoy being the beloved community, and we realize that everyone is meant to be included, everyone.

Many: **The divisions of the world can only be overcome by a new kind of consciousness at every level, personal, relational, social, and institutional.**

One: Inclusion of all is the unique and central job of any healthy religion. In this community of faith, we are here to nurture and support, empower and explore, renew, energize, welcome and practice hospitality.

Many: **We join together as partners in a common cause and in the life of this church, and promise each other our friendship, our prayers and our love.**

One: **Here we are, together in celebration and worship, graced by music and message, moved by rhythm and words, sharing passion and purpose.**

Prayer (unison): led by Jim Rosenquist
Inviting and welcoming God, we worship this day in gratitude for creating us in all our human diversity. May our faith give us the courage to reach out in love to those who need our support and partnership. Show us the patience and understanding necessary to accept the offer of community from others who believe and worship differently from us. May the work we do and the way we do it bring hope and joy to ourselves and our neighbors. We pray in the Spirit of Christ alive in each of us. Amen.

OPENING SONG

Bring Many Names

CHILDREN & YOUTH MOMENT with Robbie Arevalos

MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Mike Holland

Lord's Prayer, a version by Rev. Bruce Sanquin

Author of The Emerging Church

Loving Presence, luminous in all creation, hallowed be Your name. Thy kin-dom come. May we reflect on earth the evolving perfection of the heavens. Help us to receive a fair measure from the earth this day. Forgive us when we trespass against others, human and other than human, as we forgive others who trespass against us. Keep us on the path of wisdom when we are tempted to take the selfish path. May it be Your spirit we follow, Your desire we exercise, and Your presence that allures us. Let this be the truth that guides our lives, the ground from which our future together will grow, until we meet again. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal

Desert Song
by Brooke Fraser

SCRIPTURE READING

Matt. 22:1-5, 8a-10, 14

Jesus was speaking again in parables: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a royal who prepared a party for an heir. ³Servants were sent to call on those who had been invited to the party, but none wanted to come. ⁴So, the royal sent other servants and instructed them, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Look, the meal is all prepared... everything is ready. Come to the party!’” ⁵But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses.... ⁸Then the royal said to the servants, ‘The party is prepared... ⁹Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the party.’ ¹⁰“The servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good, and the party was full of guests. ¹⁴“Many people are invited, but few chose to attend.”

A Third Principle of Progressive Christianity

As progressive Christians, we seek and create community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: believers, agnostics, atheists, seekers, skeptics. Those of all races, religions, cultures, and nationalities. Those of all sexual orientations and all gender identities. Those of all classes and abilities. Those historically marginalized. All creatures and plant life.

MESSAGE *An Inclusive Gospel* Pastor Mike
(*and an invitation to a Party*)

DISCIPLESHIP SONG *Walls that Divide* vs 1-3

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Sallie Coltrin
(*Online giving is an option through churchofthefoothills.org*)
(*Or, mail in pledges and gifts to the church office.*
Or, drop them in the mail slot at the church office. Thank You!)

BENEDICTION Pastor Mike Holland

CONGREGATIONAL/CHORAL RESPONSE
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
(*Repeat*)

POSTLUDE John Douglas and Jeffrey Segal
Breathe
by Marie Barnett