

Worship Service #4

Preacher: Elder Anthony Trujillo, Candidate for Ordination, NYC Presbytery

Welcome to this worship service which is offered to your congregation as a gift from the Presbytery of Southern New England. These worship services are designed to be flexible enough to allow your congregation to fit them in where needed, to allow for your pastor or worship leader to be able to take a break, and to continue online worship during this time of Covid-19. Our preachers for these worship services come to us from around the larger church and our focus for these services is to continue our learnings on anti-racism and equity as this is a ministry focus of the Presbytery. Today our worship leader is Anthony Trujillo who is a candidate for ordination with the Presbytery of New York City. Anthony is part of the Native American Caucus for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and lives in Harford, CT. He is beginning doctoral studies this fall at Harvard University. Welcome Anthony and come let us worship God!

Call to Worship:

With friends and strangers,
with family and neighbors, we gather:

**Come among us, Healing God,
with that love which never ends.**

With faith reaching out to touch,
with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**Come among us, Friend of the broken,
with your compassion which makes us whole.**

With word and wonder,
with silence and song, we wait:

**Come among us, Dryer of our tears,
to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

Opening Hymn: Thine is the Glory (Westminster) Glory to God #238

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]

We Confess our Faith/Belhar:

Our prayer of confession is a portion of the Confession of Belhar which is the newest confession to be added to our Book of Confessions. The Confession of Belhar is a confession from the church of the Global South, originating in the Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa. This was the church formed after apartheid. Apartheid formed a racially stratified society. Those with the lightest skin tones were offered the greatest protection and opportunity. Racial separation was established by law and enforced through violence. Non-white citizens lived with constant and intrusive police presence and interference in the daily functions of life. Those who protested risked punishment, imprisonment, and even death. The roots of apartheid go back in South African culture and church for several centuries. The Dutch Reformed Church embodied racial separation when it formed three “mission” churches in the late nineteenth century, each categorized by its racial identity. The Dutch Reformed Mission Church was formed for people designated as “coloured” (biracial). The church’s complicity with racial separation kept Christians from worshipping and coming to the Lord’s Table together. The white Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) created an elaborate biblical interpretation and ideology that supported racial separation and then the formal apartheid policies. The Dutch Reformed Church’s active participation and theological defense of apartheid moved the global church to name apartheid a status confessionis—a conviction that the Gospel was at stake and thus the faith needed to be proclaimed. Leaders of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church wrestled with this situation theologically and practically. One outcome of their struggles was the emergence of the Confession of Belhar in the early 1980s. The Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa (URCSA), the church that succeeded the Dutch Reformed Mission Church after apartheid, has offered the Confession of Belhar to the global Reformed family as a gift, believing that the themes of unity, reconciliation, and justice issue a call from God to the whole church toward holy action, transformation, and life.

We believe, that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged; that God calls the church to follow him in this, for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right. Therefore, that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; that in following

Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Therefore, we reject any ideology and confess our complicity in it, which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. Have mercy on us, O God.

Assurance of Pardon:

God's love and mercy knows no bounds. Whoever we are, wherever we have been, whatever we have done, know this, you are loved. You are made new in Jesus Christ. In the Spirit we find our true communion and are whole. Go in peace, knowing you are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Music: God Be in My Head (Westminster)

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3: 1-19

Sermon

Offering/Offering Music: Esto es Digo (Westminster)

For the offering today, you are invited to give through your normal channels of giving to your local congregation. If you wish, you may also give to the Presbytery, to support our anti-racism and reparation work at www.psne.org/donate

Sending/Benediction:

Closing Music: Go to the World (Westminster) Glory to God #295

1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

2 Go to the world! God into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

3 Go to the world! God struggle, bless, and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry Amen!
Alleluia. Alleluia.