

ORDINARY TIME

From Advent to Pentecost, the church celebrates what God has done to inaugurate the new creation through Christ's birth, ministry, death, and resurrection. In the season after Pentecost--Ordinary Time--we live into this great story, remembering that following Jesus is a day by day, week by week journey, or, as Eugene Peterson puts it, "a long obedience in the same direction." This season teaches us that God is present and at work among us, both in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of our everyday lives, bringing about the renewal of all things. The liturgical color is green, signifying growth, renewal, and the flourishing of God's kingdom.

REFLECTION

Sarah too is a product of patriarchy and women can and do subjugate other women and sometimes men under patriarchy's dominion. Sarah employs the lessons she learned in her father's house against Hagar and, to some degree, against Abraham. Sarah will seize the body of a girl she considers her property and subjects her to physical and sexual violence and a forced pregnancy while turning the tables on the husband who sold her for sheep, camels, donkeys, and human chattel. Later, her abuse of Hagar will be so violent, so oppressive, that it is described with the same word that Exodus uses to describe Egyptian oppression and affliction of the Israelites, a word that includes rape as one of its primary meanings.

— The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. Professor of Hebrew Bible, Brite Divinity School

As a symbol of the oppressed, Hagar becomes many things to many people. Most especially, all sorts of rejected women find their stories in her. She is the faithful maid exploited, the black woman used by the male and abused by the female of the ruling class, the surrogate mother, the resident alien without legal recourse, the other woman, the runaway youth, the religious fleeing from affliction, the pregnant young woman alone, the expelled wife, the divorced mother with child, the shopping bag lady carrying bread and water, the homeless woman, the indigent relying upon handouts...the welfare mother, and the self-effacing female whose own identity shrinks in service to others.

— The Rev. Phyllis Tribble, PhD., Texts of Terror

Was Hagar's naming of God an act of defiance and resistance as well as an expression of awe?

— The Rev. Delores S. Williams, PhD., Sisters in the Wilderness

Collect

God of debts forgiven, you call to account our hunger for power; you disturb hierarchies which crush the weak: break the vicious cycles of revenge and domination that we might look to him whose mercy never ends, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

September 13, 2020

Ordinary Time:
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Greeting

Rev. Fred Harrell
Worship Leader

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Preparation

Call to Worship - from Psalm 92:1-2,4, NRSV

Minister: *It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord,
to sing praises to you, O God Most High,*

People: to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night.

Minister: *For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work;*

People: at the work of your hands we sing for joy.

Prayer of Adoration

PRAISE

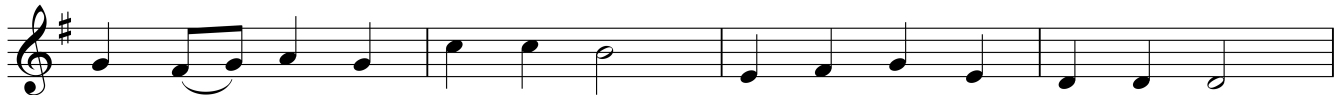
For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliot Pierpoint, 1864

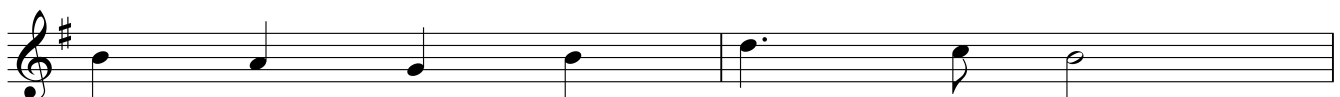
Conrad Kocher, 1838



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour, of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For Thy - self, best Gift Di - vine to the world so free - ly given,



For the love which from our birth ov - er and a - round us lies.
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light.
For the my - stic har - mo - ny lin - king sense to sound and sight.
For that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in Heaven.



Lord of all to Thee we raise



This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

RENEWAL

Call to Confession – Psalm 42:1-2,11 NRSV

Rev. Melisa Blankenship

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord God, in the light of your glory
we see the wrong we have done,
the suffering we have caused,
the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.
Heal us of our sin,
wash us in your mercy,
and sustain us with your grace,
so that we may follow your way
and live out the good news of the gospel. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Encouragement – Romans 5:8

Minister: *We have seen the proof of God's love: Christ died for us even while we were sinners.*

In Christ, we are loved and forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

Minister: *The peace of Christ be with you all.*

People: And also with you.

Song Of Peace

Peace Be With You

John 14:27

Karl Digerness, 2019

Peace_ be with you, peace be with you, peace of Christ be with__ you.

“The peace I leave with you, friends, the world can’t take a - way.

Don’t let your hearts be trou - bled, and do not be a - fraid.”

Blessing our Children and Youth

Minister: People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

People: May the Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

*Minister: May the Lord bless you and keep you;
may the Lord grow you strong in Divine grace,
may the Lord fill you with the love of Christ.*

All: Thanks be to God!

Song of Assurance

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Horatius Bonar, 1846

Kevin Twit, 1998



1. I heard the voice of__ Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and__ rest
2. I heard the voice of__ Je - sus say, "Be - hold I free - ly__ give,
3. I heard the voice of__ Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light



lay down you wear-y,__ one lay down, your head up - on my__ breast."__
the liv - ing wa - ter,__ thirst - y one, stoop down and drink and__ live!"__
look un to me thy__ morn' shall rise, and all thy days be__ bright."__



I came to Je - sus__ as I was, so wear - y worn and sad
I came to Je - sus__ and I drank, from that life giv - ing stream
I looked to Je - sus__ and I found, in Him my star, my sun



I found in Him my,__ rest - ing place, and He has made me glad
my thirst was quenched my,__ soul re - vived, and now I live in Him.
and in that light of__ life I'll walk, 'til pil - grim days are done.

COMMITMENT

Words of Welcome

Scripture

Genesis 16: 1-16, NRSV

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, bore him no children. She had an Egyptian slave-girl whose name was Hagar, ²and Sarai said to Abram, "You see that the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my slave-girl; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave-girl, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife.

⁴He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵Then Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my slave-girl to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Your slave-girl is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she ran away from her.

⁷The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

⁸And he said, "Hagar, slave-girl of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her."

¹⁰The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude." ¹¹And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Now you have conceived and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the Lord has given heed to your affliction. ¹²He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live at odds with all his kin." ¹³So she named the Lord who spoke to her, "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?" ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Fred Harrell

When Things Fall Part: Discarded

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

The offering is a way for Christians to support the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God’s grace. While many at City Church make their regular contributions through online giving and automated bill pay (<https://citychurchsf.org/Give>), offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us.

Offering Prayer

All: Creator of abundance, Spirit of wisdom,
may you use the gifts of the church and the gifts of our lives
that your kingdom may come and your will be done
through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Musical Offering

Anne Steele (1716-1778)

Come All Ye Pining, Hungry Poor

Brian T Murphy, 2007



1. Lord we a - dore___ thy___ bound - less___ grace___
2. O won - drous gifts___ of___ love___ di - vine,___
3. Here shall your num - 'rous___ wants___ re - ceive___



the heights and depths___ un - known,___
Dear Source of ev - 'ry___ good;___
a free, a full___ sup - ply;___



of par - don, life,___ and___ joy,___ and___ peace,___
Je - sus, in thee___ what___ glo - ries___ shine!___
He has un - meas - ured___ bliss___ to___ give,___



in thy be - lov - ed___ Son.___ Come, all ye pin -
How rich thy flow - ing___ blood!___
and joys that nev - er___ die.___



- ing,___ hun - gry___ poor,___ the Sav - ior's boun - ty___ taste;___ Be - hold a ne -



- ver - fail - ing___ store___ for ev - 'ry will - ing___ guest.___

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Confession of Faith: Apostles Creed

Rev. Melisa Blankenship

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Minister: *Lift up your hearts!*

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

Karl Digerness, 2012

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est!

© 2012 Karl Digerness Music

Minister: *Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:*

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God

Communion Prayer

All: Eternal Source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

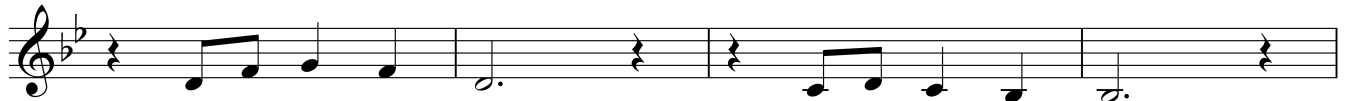
Justice Will Roll Down

from Amos 5:24

by Sandra McCracken, 2010



1. Oh my love, you have grown so cold
 2. Oh my child, I will be your light
 3. Soon oh soon, when the trum - pet sounds



To the world out - side, to the house next door
 In your se - cret pain, in the dark of night
 Ev - 'ry knee shall bend, ev' - ry heart will pound



She who has been loved much, has so much to give
 No e - ne - my, no con - que - ror, will steal your life from me
 For I have made a new world, the ser - vant is the King



Mer - cy is the fra - grance, of the bro - ken
 I am your sal - va - tion, and your vic - to - ry
 Op - press - ion will be o - ver, and the slave set free.

CHORUS



Jus - tice will roll down, oh jus - tice will roll down From



high up - on those moun - tains with a might - y ri - ver sound



It will roll down, it will roll down

Benediction — from Hebrews 13:20-21

Minister: *May the God of peace, who raised to life the great shepherd of the sheep,
make you ready to do God's will in every good thing, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory forever and ever.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.*

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Minister: *Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

All: Thanks be to God!

Musicians:

Jeff Marrs, drums
Jason Muscat, bass

Adam Shulman, piano
Wil Blades, organ

Meggie Davidson, vocals
Karl Digerness, vocals/guitar

LINKS

Connect Form - <https://citychsf.co/cf2020>

Family Registration Form - <https://citychsf.co/fr2020>

Covid-19 | Care | Support | Volunteering

Have a need? Want to help? | citychurchsf.org/Needs-Help

STAY CONNECTED**Sunday : Live Worship**

Sundays · Live Stream @ 10 AM | citychurchsf.org/Live

Virtual Children's Worship:

Sundays starting September 13 · Different times for each age group · citychurchsf.org/Children

Thursdays : Guided contemplative prayer

Zoom @ 7 AM | citychurchsf.org/CP

Youth: Meet-ups

Meeting via Zoom | citychurchsf.org/Youth

Leaving "God" to Find Life: What You Don't Have to Believe to Be a Christian, with Jay Wilson

Thursday, September 17 @ 7 PM | citychurchsf.org/Leaving-God

Book Clubs | citychurchsf.org/City-Church-Book-Clubs

Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation.

Tuesdays from 7 - 8 PM starting September 29 · Led By Fred Harrell

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life

Wednesdays Starting September 30 · Led By Kim Watson

Unafraid: Moving Beyond Fear-Based Faith

Tuesdays starting October 20 · Led By Melisa Blankenship