July 31, 2022

PRELUDE, OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP IN SONG

 SONG: “You Are My All in All”[[1]](#footnote-1)

Chorus:

**Jesus Lamb of God; Worthy is Your name; Jesus Lamb of God; Worthy is Your name**

 SONG: “Hallelujah,” Leonard Cohen

HYMN: “Spirit of the Living God”[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Spirit of the Living God; Fall fresh on me; Spirit of the Living God; Fall fresh on me**

**Melt me mold me; Fill me use me; Spirit of the Living God; Fall fresh on me**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, PARDON, AND PEACE

**Loving God, you bind us to you with cords of kindness and bands of love. You care for the wandering, the lonely, the hungry, and the suffering. In our preoccupation with our own lives, we sometimes fail to notice the suffering of others. In our humanness, we miss moment by moment opportunities to care for your earth. Forgive us dear God. Help us to grow in compassion. Help us to nourish your people and your earth with loving tenderness and mercy. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HOSEA 11:1-11

11When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 The more I called them, the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those

 who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.

5 They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. 6 The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests,

 and devours because of their schemes. 7 My people are bent on turning away from me.

 To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. 8 How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. 9 I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. 10 They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. 11 They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

LUKE 12: 13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ 14But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ 15And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ 16Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” 18Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” 20But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” 21So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

SERMON: “Cords of Human Kindness”

\*HYMN: #28 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

JOYS & CONCERNS, PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, LORD’S PRAYER

 Lord, in your mercy… **Hear our prayers.**

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SONG: “Shout to the North”[[3]](#footnote-3)

**Chorus: Shout to the north and the south; Sing to the east and the west; Jesus is Savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth**

BENEDICTION & POSTLUDE

Kirsten Nestro teaches in the Dept. of Theology and Religious Studies and the Dept. of Catholic Studies at Sacred Heart University. Kirsten teaches Introduction to World Religions, Understanding Religion, Eastern Religions, and the Human Journey Seminars, as well as multiple faith and social justice courses. She also teaches workshops for adults on racial justice as well as global migration and the refugee crisis. As an educator, Kirsten seeks to instill the values of intellectual curiosity and the possibility of transformation, both individually and communally. Kirsten established and developed the SHU chapter of buildOn where she currently serves as the co-faculty advisor. Students in this movement seek to break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education. Her students engage in community service locally and have traveled globally to build three primary schools. Kirsten serves on the board of nOURIsh Bridgeport and is a long-time member of Trumbull Congregational Church. Kirsten’s human journey has been greatly enhanced by her husband Paul and her three “babies”-Olivia, Nick, and Chloe.

1. CCLI Song # 825356 Jernigan © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. CCLI License # 11353163 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. CCLI Song # 23488 License # 11353163 Iverson © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. CCLI Song # 1562261 Smith © 1995 Curious? Music UK CCLI License # 11353163 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)