

**Presbytery Worship
October 16, 2021**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Rio Rancho Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Young Adult Volunteers

Reader 1: The space is virtual, but the welcome is real!

Reader 2: We come together from all of the spaces where we experience life as God's beloved.

Reader 3: We come from kitchen tables and corporate conference room tables; we come from craft tables and woodworking tables; from writing tables and drawing tables.

Reader 1: We come vowing to welcome and include those who sit at immigration tables and disaster assistance tables and tables where people work against exclusion and the "isms" that separate us.

Reader 2: We come from our individual tables in front of computer screens and phone screens to this space of worship and to the table where Christ will nourish us.

Reader 3: We gather together to offer our praise. Let us worship our Creator God!

GATHERING

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In



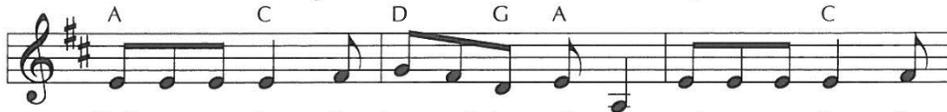
1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

the Rev. Andrew Black, First Pres Santa Fe

Ever-present God, we have seen strange things this past 20 months: our worship has changed, our ability to gather has changed, and we are longing for an end to this strangeness. Sometimes we feel paralyzed by the uncertainty, or the numbness, or the sheer fatigue of it all. We see loved ones and strangers suffering, near and far, and don't know what to do. Have mercy on us when we fail to act as you call us to: loving our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us when we act out of fear instead of faith. Hear now our personal confessions in the silence...

(time for silent confessions)

Give us courage to bring to you all that needs healing in our world, no matter what roofs we have to tear apart, so that together we might get up and walk into the good future you have for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Kathy Westmoreland, Moderator

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.^[1] ¹⁸Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus;^[2]¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd^[3] in front of Jesus. ²⁰When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend,^[4] your sins are forgiven you." ²¹Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²²When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?" ²⁴But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the one who was paralyzed—"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." ²⁵Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

LECTURA

Lucas 5:17-26

Shirley Sandoval, CP, El Rito Pres, Chacon

¹⁷Un día en que Jesús estaba enseñando, se habían sentado por allí algunos fariseos y maestros de la ley venidos de todas las aldeas de Galilea, y de Judea y Jerusalén. Y el poder del Señor se mostraba en Jesús sanando a los enfermos. ¹⁸Entonces llegaron unos hombres que llevaban en una camilla a uno que estaba paralítico. Querían llevarlo adentro de la casa y ponerlo delante de Jesús, ¹⁹pero no encontraban por dónde meterlo, porque había mucha gente; así que subieron al techo y, abriendo

un hueco entre las tejas, bajaron al enfermo en la camilla, allí en medio de todos, delante de Jesús.²⁰ Cuando Jesús vio la fe que tenían, le dijo al enfermo:

—Amigo, tus pecados quedan perdonados.

²¹ Entonces los maestros de la ley y los fariseos comenzaron a pensar: «¿Quién es éste que se atreve a decir palabras ofensivas contra Dios? Sólo Dios puede perdonar pecados.»

²² Pero Jesús se dio cuenta de lo que estaban pensando, y les preguntó:

—¿Por qué piensan ustedes así? ²³ ¿Qué es más fácil, decir: “Tus pecados quedan perdonados”, o decir: “Levántate y anda”? ²⁴ Pues voy a demostrarles que el Hijo del hombre tiene autoridad en la tierra para perdonar pecados.

Entonces le dijo al paralítico:

—A ti te digo, levántate, toma tu camilla y vete a tu casa.

²⁵ Al momento, el paralítico se levantó delante de todos, tomó la camilla en que estaba acostado y se fue a su casa alabando a Dios.²⁶ Todos se quedaron admirados y alabaron a Dios, y llenos de miedo dijeron:

—Hoy hemos visto cosas maravillosas.

SERMON

“Strange Things”

The Rev. Kathy Westmoreland, Moderator

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INSTALLATION

Moderator, Clara Storms

Moderator-Elect, The Rev. Harry Eberts

OFFERING

The Rev. Stephanie Urban, First Pres, ABQ

(The offering from this service will go to Lutheran Family Services to support refugees from Afghanistan. Give by mailing a check to the Presbytery office or going to the website, note that your donation is for Presbytery Worship Offering)

COMMUNION AND NECROLOGY

The Rev. Ginna Bairby, First Pres Taos, and The Rev. Dave Wasserman, HR

Necrology Readers:

Peggy Barnett, RE, Shepherd of the Valley, ABQ

Phyllis Moore, RE, Sandia, ABQ

Roxie Shirley, RE, First Pres, Raton

Marcia Ann Thornton, RE, Community, Magdalena

RESPONSE

“When the Saints Go Marching In”

Musician: Em Krall

BENEDICTION

Kathy Westmoreland

POSTLUDE

“Peace in the Valley”

Dorsey
Musicians from St. Andrew, ABQ