

Generation to Generation

Worshiping God through the Ages

April 24 - May 22, 2022

Confirmation Sunday: Bring What You Have

Rev. Michelle Vecchio-Lyzenga

May 15, 2022

Open in Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit into your gathering, giving God praise for your community and this journey of discovery and connection.

Gather

Listen, Converse, Imagine

John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way.² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only

about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own

belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

1. Imagine yourself as one of these seven disciples. Jesus has appeared to you and others a few times since his resurrection not long ago. What are you feeling? What are you wondering? What are you assuming?
2. The Beloved Disciple and Simon Peter engage with Jesus very differently: the former recognizes Jesus from afar through the abundance of fish and tells others, and the latter springs into action. Both disciples' temperaments and gifts are affirmed and commissioned by Jesus in this passage. What are a few distinctives of your temperament and gifts? How do you sense Jesus is inviting you to "bring what you have" to the table?
3. Jesus commissions Peter and the others forward into servant leadership in his absence, But not without offering them guidance and sustenance. Where are you experiencing these things today? Where might you be serving from your own wisdom and strength rather than responding to Jesus' commission to "Follow me."

Respond

What commitment or action did the message inspire you to make or take?

Pray

Allow ample time to not only hear from one another how we can hold each other in our prayers during the coming week but also to pray together for God's grace to flow over each concern.

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Worshiping God through the Ages

April 24 - May 22, 2022

*University Sunday:
Living For Today*

Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell
May 8, 2022

Open in Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit into your gathering, giving God praise for your community and this journey of discovery and connection.

Gather

Listen, Converse, Imagine

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

1. What do you recall about your faith journey when you were in your late teens-early 20's? What questions were you asking? What doubts did you have? How did your faith sustain you in that time?
2. We heard the testimonies of three of our university students (Bianca, Josh and Libby) in worship. How did you relate to their stories?
3. These students chose the Matthew 6 passage. Why is it an important message for the youth of today to hear? Why is it an important message for YOU to hear?

Respond

What commitment or action did the message inspire you to make or take?

Pray

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April 24 - May 22, 2022

Word to Clear Heads and Warm Hearts

Rev. Earl Palmer

May 1, 2022

Open in Prayer

Invite the Holy Spirit into your gathering, giving God praise for your community and this journey of discovery and connection.

Gather

Listen, Converse, Imagine

Read together 2 Timothy 1:3-7

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

1. After a prolonged season of not being able to gather with one another, what has it been like for you to regather in Christian community? In what ways do you experience unbelief or doubt?
2. Who have been spiritual matriarchs or patriarchs in your life? How has their faith come to “live in” you?
3. How might the act of laying on hands—through blessing, prayer, compassionate care, etc.—“rekindle the gift of God” within us?

Respond

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Could It Be True?

Aeryn Seto Johnson
Candidate Under Care

April 24, 2022

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Gather

When Jesus breaks in, we're invited to know him for ourselves, receive new life in his Holy Spirit and be sent out as his people.

"Doubt is not a threat to faith: it's faith that has finally taken off its mask."

Cole Arthur Riley, @blackliturgies

- What impact did your Lenten journey have on your knowing of Jesus?
- Share about a time, perhaps recently, when you experienced doubt in your own journey of faith.

Listen, Converse, Imagine

Read together John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of

the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

1. When have you ever had a sense of the divine presence breaking in unexpectedly? What was that experience like for you? What impact did that in-breaking have on your relationship with Jesus?
2. In what ways do you experience unbelief or doubt?
3. Jesus tells the disciples, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Where are you currently being "sent out" in your life?

Respond

What commitment or action did the message inspire you to make or take?

Pray

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