

SEMPER REFORMANDA

CHURCH REFORMED, ALWAYS REFORMING

JUNE 5 to JULY 12, 2022

PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS

Rev. Dr. Charlene Han Powell

June 19, 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

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?'

Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.'

Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

1. What is your favorite “-ing” of worship? The praying? The singing? The preaching? Just being in the sanctuary?
2. Why is that your favorite part? What does it do to you?
3. How would you describe the woman’s offering in Luke 7? What makes her action/gift precious in the eyes of Jesus?

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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CONFESSION:

PRAYER, PARDON, PEACE

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June 12, 2022

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1 John 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we

1. What does the woman in the Luke passage teach us about confession? What does Simon, the Pharisee, teach us about confession?
2. How do these passages impact the way you view our Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Pardon/ Passing the Peace section of worship?
3. What about confession is hard for you? What about confession is life-giving for you?

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