



CLOSING WORSHIP

APRIL 6, 2019

⁹ I will look with favor upon you and make you fruitful and multiply you;
and I will maintain my covenant with you.¹
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? ²

WELCOME & THEME

TIBETAN BELL

CALL TO COMMUNITY

- One: How wonderful and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity, in harmony, in covenant!
- ALL: Covenant brings us freedom for, not freedom from, freedom to suggest, request, recommend, urge and perhaps even (rarely, please) demand; to question, grieve, regret and perhaps even deplore; but not to command, require, order, or condemn.**
- One: Covenant brings us freedom to speak to one another,
- ALL: Not for one another,**
- One: Freedom to speak *for* ourselves,
- ALL: and freedom for finding ways to speak together with one voice,**
- One: freedom for discerning and responding to the call of God for ourselves, our ministry settings, and our conference
- ALL: and freedom to choose to walk together as we live out our calls and our one call.**
- One: How wonderful and pleasant it is
- ALL: when kindred live together in unity, in harmony, in covenant!**

*SONG

What a Covenant

1. What a covenant, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Chorus:

*Leaning, Leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, Leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

2. O how sweet to walk in this Pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
O how bright the path, grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. *Chorus*

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Savior near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms! *Chorus*

CENTERING PRAYER (ALL)

¹ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version.* (1989). (Le 26:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version.* (1989). (Is 43:19). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Holy One, you are the covenanting God. You call us into covenants with one another. Forgive our moments of messiness and unfaithfulness. Teach us grace and forgiveness. Remind us that in covenant we are never alone. Hold us as we hold one another in love.

SONG

God So Loved the World
Tucson Marshallese Choir

***SHARING PEACE**

Christ's peace be with you.
And with your spirit!

SACRED READINGS (English & Spanish)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Beatitudes Campus Reader

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their [spouse], says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. ³

³¹ He aquí, vienen días—declara el SEÑOR— en que haré con la casa de Israel y con la casa de Judá un nuevo pacto^a, ³² no como el pacto^a que hice con sus padres el día que los tomé de la mano para sacarlos de la tierra^b de Egipto, mi pacto que ellos rompieron^c, aunque fui un esposo para ellos—declara el SEÑOR; ³³ porque este es el pacto que haré con la casa de Israel después de aquellos días—declara el SEÑOR—. Pondré mi ley dentro de ellos, y sobre sus corazones la escribiré^a; y yo seré su Dios y ellos serán mi pueblo^b. ³⁴ Y no tendrán que enseñar más cada uno a su prójimo^a y cada cual a su hermano, diciendo: “Conoce al SEÑOR”, porque todos me conocerán^b, desde el más pequeño de ellos hasta el más grande—declara el SEÑOR—pues perdonaré su maldad, y no recordaré más su pecado^c.

2 Corinthians 3:2-6

Journey Reader

² You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; ³ and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

² Vosotros sois nuestra carta, escrita en nuestros corazones, conocida y leída por todos los hombres^a,

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, ⁶ who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁴

³ siendo manifiesto que sois carta de Cristo redactada¹ por nosotros, no escrita con tinta, sino con el Espíritu^a del Dios vivo^b; no en tablas de piedra^c, sino en tablas de corazones humanos^{2d}.

⁴ Y esta¹ confianza tenemos hacia Dios por medio de Cristo^a: ⁵ no que seamos suficientes en nosotros mismos para pensar que cosa alguna *procede* de nosotros, sino que nuestra suficiencia es de Dios^a, ⁶ el cual también nos hizo suficientes *como* ministros^{1a} de un nuevo pacto^b, no de la letra, sino del Espíritu^c; porque la letra mata, pero el Espíritu da vida^d.

³ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. La Biblia de Las Americas.*

⁴ *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. La Biblia de Las Americas.*

SONG

The Flowing River
The Pickin' Pastors

SERMON

Rev. Pamela Shepherd, Taos United Community Church

SONG

Weave by Rosemary Crow

Chorus

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

1. We are many textures, we are many colors,
Each one different from the other.
But we are entwined with one another in one great tapestry. *Chorus*
2. We are different instruments playing our own melodies,
Each one tuning to a different key.
But we are all playing in harmony, in one great symphony. *Chorus*
3. A moment ago we did not know our unity, only diversity.
Now the Christ in me greets the Christ in thee,
in one great family! *Chorus*

RITE FOR CONFERRING LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING

COCAM A Representative: ... in which the lay person is charged to serve for a season and commits to that ministry's vitality.

COCAM A Rep: Paul writes, "*Siblings in Christ, I want you to know the truth about gifts from the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.*"

ALL: *There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.*

COCAM A Rep: *There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.*

ALL: *The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.*

...

(All authorized ministers, COCAM Members and members of Michael's home church are invited to share in the laying on of hands.)

Conference Minister: Almighty God, who out of your great love gathered one church ... through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

ALL: Amen.

Associate Conference Minister: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Southwest Conference, I declare...

***SONG**

Weave (chorus only)

Chorus

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

RITE FOR THE RECEPTION OF TAOS UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH INTO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE:

Peace be with you! Hear these words from the apostle Paul: Our brothers and sisters, we must thank God at all times for you. It is right for us to do so, because your faith is growing so much and the love each of you has for the others is becoming greater.

CONFERENCE MEMBERS: That is why we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God.²⁰

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE:

We are here to enter a covenant. The people of God known Taos United Community Church and the churches of God gathered in the Southwest Conference rejoice to affirm that by the grace of God we intend to be the church together.

TAOS UCC REPRESENTATIVE:

We, the people of God in Taos United Community Church,
believe in God, the Eternal One,
accept Jesus as the Christ,
and look to the Holy Spirit to create and renew the church.
We are organized for Christian worship,
for the nurture of the Christian community of faith,
and for the mission of Christian witness,
in accordance with the word of God as we receive it in the scriptures.

Last night we shared with you the story of our pilgrimage of faith. Today we stand ready to covenant with you to be Church together.

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE:

We, the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ share your faith. We have travelled your path to this moment with you. Today we stand ready to covenant with you to be Church together.

TAOS UCC REPRESENTATIVE:

As the representative of the faith community of Taos United Community Church, I affirm our intention to live in covenant with the churches and communities of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our community celebrates with joy our covenant commitment to share the love of Christ with you.

ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER:

Members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with Taos United Community Church. Will rise in spirit or body in witness to the commitment we now make?

SWC MEMBERS:

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to share the love of Christ with you. We promise you:

We will be concerned for your welfare;
we will be co-workers with you in your mission;
We will turn to you for assistance in the work Christ calls us to do together.

CONFERENCE MINISTER: Let us pray together with one voice:

ALL: Holy God, who in Jesus Christ has made a new and eternal covenant with all who turn to you in faith, witness the covenant we make today. Confirm this relationship. Bless our intentions, hopes, and commitments with the fruit of holiness. Light our way with the lamp of your word and the fire of your Holy Spirit. Move us on the journey of faith and enable us to walk with all your people toward the day of justice and peace in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE: ... Taos United Community Church is a member in good standing of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***SONG**

Weave (chorus only)

Chorus

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

RITE FOR THE RECEPTION OF COMMUNITIES INTO THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UCC

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE:

There is a place in the Southwest Conference United Church of Christ for people who gather not as a local church, and yet who gather around the presence of Christ, who embrace a United Church of Christ identity and the values of the Southwest Conference, and who desire to live in covenant relationship with us as a community. For the first time in our history we come to covenant with two such communities: Beatitudes Campus and Journey.

BEATITUDES CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVE:

Beatitudes Campus, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with the churches and communities of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Will you rise in spirit or in body and witness to the commitment we now make?

BEATITUDES CAMPUS MEMBERS:

As *Beatitudes Campus*, we are a network of people organized around the presence of Christ. We embrace a United Church of Christ identity and the values of the Southwest Conference. We seek to share the love of Christ with you and to live in covenant as faithful members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

JOURNEY REPRESENTATIVE:

Journey, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with the churches and communities of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Will you rise in spirit or in body and witness to the commitment we now make?

JOURNEY MEMBERS:

As *Journey*, we *are* a network of people organized around the presence of Christ. We embrace a United Church of Christ identity and the values of the Southwest Conference. We seek to share the love of Christ with you and to live in covenant as faithful members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER:

Members of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ, let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with Beatitudes Campus and Journey. Will you rise in spirit or body in witness to the commitment we now make?

SWC MEMBERS:

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to share the love of Christ with you. We promise you, members of Beatitudes Campus and of Journey:

We will be concerned for your welfare;

We will be co-workers with you in your mission;

We will turn to you for assistance in the work Christ calls us to do together.

CONFERENCE MINISTER: Let us pray together with one voice:

ALL: Holy God, who in Jesus Christ has made a new and eternal covenant with all who turn to you in faith, witness the covenant we make today. Confirm our relationships. Bless our intentions, hopes, and commitments with the fruit of holiness. Light our way with the lamp of your word and the fire of your Holy Spirit. Move us on the journey of faith and enable us to walk with all your people toward the day of justice and peace in all the earth; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

COCAM B REPRESENTATIVE: ... Beatitudes Campus and Journey are communities in good standing of the Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

***SONG**

Weave (chorus only)

Chorus

Weave, weave, weave us together.

Weave us together in unity and love.

Weave, weave, weave us together.

Weave us together, together in love.

INSTALLATION OF SWC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Conference Minister: Today we affirm the diverse gifts of our conference members ...

MODERATOR: All of us are Christ's body, and each one of us is a part, has a place, and is called to a function within it.¹⁹

Ones elected to leadership positions in the SWC are invited to stand where they are.

Conference Minister: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this conference, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their

willingness to serve.

Beloved in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for leadership through service in the ministry of the Southwest Conference, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

INDIVIDUALS: I am.

Conference Minister:

Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

INDIVIDUALS: I do, relying on God's grace.

Conference Minister:

Members of the Southwest Conference, you have heard the promises of our friends in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will you rise and witness to the commitment we now make in spirit or in body?

All who are able stand in spirit or in body.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you so that together we may be growing churches in of the Body of Christ.

Conference Minister: Let us pray. Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this conference which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us faithfully. Help them to be diligent in their duties that our congregations, our conference and the whole church may prosper in the mission you place before us. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name.

All: Amen.

Conference Minister: ... You are recognized and affirmed in your various ministries within the Southwest Conference!

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

Offertory

Count Your Many Blessings!
Tucson Marshallese Ministry Choir

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FEAST

MUSIC DURING THE MEAL

For Everyone Born

1. For everyone born, a place at the table,
For everyone born, clean water and bread;
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead.

Chorus

And God will delight when we are creators
of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice,
Justice and joy.

2. For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
Transgender and queer in one single tree;
Engaging each gift and blessing each cov'nant;
For gay and for straight, a new way to be.
Chorus

3. Regardless of age, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
At ev'ry life stage, a place to belong. *Chorus*

4. For just and unjust a place at the table

Abuser, abused with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt a mindset of mercy
For just and unjust, a new way to live. *Chorus*

5. For everyone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear and simply to be;
To work, and to speak out, to witness and
worship,
For everyone born the right to be free.
Chorus

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (All)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CALL TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

One: OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED.

All: **LET OUR SERVICE BEGIN!**

SONG

This Little Light of Mine/Will the Circle be Unbroken

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

Everywhere I go I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

All through the night I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!

Refrain

*Will the Circle be unbroken, by and by Lord, by and by?
There's a better home a-waitin' in the sky Lord in the sky.*

I was standing by my window, On one cold and cloudy day
When I saw that hearse come rolling For to carry my mother away
Refrain

I said to that undertaker, Undertaker please drive slow
For this lady you are carrying, Lord, I hate to see here go
Refrain

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!