

March 29, 2020: 5th Sunday of Lent

10:35 – Worship Guide

Co-Pastors: Rev. Ron Harris and Rev. Karla Sheffy

Worship Accompanist: Brian Muench / Joe Worley



“The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Self” Week Five of Lent

Gathering Music (10:30)

Welcoming - Rev Karla Sheffy

Entering the Story

Prelude and Lighting the Candle

Brian Muench

Threshold Moment--Entering the Passion of Jesus (*Worship Series Synopsis*)

Rev. Karla Sheffy: *We continue on our journey through Lent as we step inside the heartbreaking story of saying goodbye to friends. We put ourselves in the picture of Holy Week, so that we might take a closer look and let the ancient story open us to listen to one another and treasure each other — all equal and precious in the eyes of God.*

Enter

Enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is *your* story

Enter the story

[All others join the singing]

Enter

Come enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is your story

Enter the story

Rev. Karla Sheffy: *Jesus' words at the Last Supper were shocking to those in attendance. His words can seem familiar, even comforting to us because we hear these words every time we have communion. But at the moment of their utterance, they were anything but "usual." This week we enter the scene of that last supper long enough to get a grasp of the shock that would have rippled through Jesus' friends. Partaking of body and blood? Not kosher! A "Lord" washing feet like a servant? Unbelievable! Breaking bread with the enemy? What?! But Jesus knew his time was up. And it was time for the disciples to get the message, even if it came in a shocking way: love one another as I have loved you — by serving, forgiving, freeing, communing — becoming one with — God.*

[Soloist Sings]

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is *our* passion

Enter the passion

[All others join the singing]

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is our passion

Enter the passion

Enter the story...

Enter the passion...

Enter his passion.

Prayer of Confession: Rev. Karla Sheffy

Let us pray together:

Sometimes we just aren't paying attention.

We can keep our heads in the sand

**when we really need to attend to difficult situations,
or the needs of your people.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Guard us from disengaging ourselves from others,
even while we practice social distancing.**

Help us to care for what's right in front of us.

You entered our story through Jesus,

now help us to enter fully into the story

of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Opening Song

"Jesu, Jesu"

UMH 432

Assurance of Pardon : Rev. Karla Sheffy

Know this: Our lives contain continual opportunities to be in humble service to friends and strangers. A spoken word of hope and love over the phone or across the way bears a witness to Jesus' gift of Grace. You

are forgiven and freed, encouraged and loved by a God who wants you to live fully. Let us accept the Peace of Christ this day. Let us enter the passion of Christ.

Getting Perspective

Children's Moment: Cindy Kienholz/Barb Muench

[The people sing "I Love to Tell the Story" refrain before & after children's moment]

"I Love to Tell the Story" UMH 156

Refrain only:

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

Scripture Reading: Rev. Ron Harris

In her book about the Passion, Amy-Jill Levine says this about Jesus' act of washing the disciples feet: "To be a servant leader, to take on the role of a slave, also means to take on the role of freeing others — not only from sin but also from bondage." Washing others' feet may seem shocking to us, but more out of a disdain for feet rather than the real reason it was shocking to those first disciples. Jesus' stature as the Master Teacher and honored guest made him first in line to be served — certainly not to be the servant. But if the disciples had been paying attention, they would have heard Jesus' own proclamation of his call — to free those held captive, especially the least among society. In taking the place of a slave, he shows forth the fulfillment of this role, one that will be further fulfilled in dying as a common criminal. We remember Jesus' words from an earlier time as we hear from the Gospel of Luke 4:16-21:

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Dwelling in the Story: Rev. Karla Sheffy

My master's banquet hall upstairs was booked for this night, and the time had arrived for this evening's group to come for the banquet. All was prepared according to their wishes, and I was ready with the water and basin as I always am. Years ago, my parents had given me to the owner as collateral for the debt they owed him. But things did not go well for them, and the debt had never been paid. And so I work to pay it off. Roman law says that some day I could be a freed person, but I will never again have the full rights in society like those who have never been slaves. It is a mark for life. I keep my head down and do what the master asks because legally he has the right to punish, abuse, and humiliate me. I've witnessed it happen to others. Right now, I have no rights.

So there I was with the bowl, just waiting for the go-ahead to start. It would be the honored guest first, of course, and I knew which one that was by where he was seated. This was all protocol, everyone has a place according to status. When he showed up, I recognized him and remembered the stories I had been hearing about this teacher. He was saying things that were really upsetting those invested in this system of status... saying things like "the last shall be first." My friend who serves in the kitchen had to tell me to stop staring. I just couldn't imagine a world like he described.

And then he came right up to me and took the basin of water from my hands. He took my servant's towel and wrapped it around his own waist and knelt, telling Peter to come sit down.

This was going to be no ordinary night.

And I realized my life, my view of myself and my station in life, was never going to be the same.

(Soloist Sings)

Enter

Enter the story

Enter the place you belong

Not just looking on

For this is your story

Enter the story

[All others join the singing]

Enter

Enter the passion

Enter the place we belong

Not just looking on

For this is our passion

Enter the passion

[tag] Enter the story...

Enter the passion...

Enter his passion.

Sermon

"The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Self"

Rev. Ron Harris

Zooming In

Hymn

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

UMH 349

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full on his wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of his wonder and grace

The Body of Christ Prays: Rev. Karla Sheffy

We remember today all those whose lives were turned inside-out by their encounter with Jesus, especially those at the Last Supper.

We remember today those people who give their time and effort
to give clean shelter, food, and clothing
to those whose wellbeing has been compromised
by homelessness and tragedy
and those who work to end human trafficking.
And now let us call to our “mind’s eye” — those people in our lives
that need our advocacy, presence and prayers.

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace***

Rev. Karla Sheffy: Pastoral Prayer....Lord’s Prayer

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full on his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his wonder and grace***

Responding in Gratitude for God’s Gifts with our Offerings – Rev. Karla Sheffy

*** The Doxology - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow” #94 UMH**

Prayer of Thanksgiving - Rev. Karla Sheffy

Closing Song “The Table”

Sharing Opportunities for Ministry - Announcements

*Benediction

Postlude

Rev. Karla Sheffy
Rev. Ron Harris