

EVENING WORSHIP: Transformation

August 10, 2023, 6 pm Located in our Queen's Courtyard. Entrance on 2700 block of Fifth Avenue 92103 (5th Ave. Side)

August 24, 2023, 6 pm Located in the Labyrinth Courtyard, entrance on 2700 block of Sixth Avenue. The Labyrinth will be open for walking throughout the day and after the service.

Thank you for joining us this evening for this outdoor worship service. Please follow along in this simple liturgy. Services take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, except for January, February, July, and December.

*Regular text will be said by the leader, text in **bold** can be said in unison. Please participate as you feel led, or feel free to rest in quiet contemplation.
We are glad you are here.*

PRELUDE

Music selected by the worship leader.

WELCOME

OPENING

We begin with a few moments of silence, to center ourselves and enter into God's presence.

Leader: Bless the Lord who calls us to be open to transformation.

***All:* God's loving kindness endures for ever.**

Leader: Let us pray together.

***All:* As the darkness of evening closes in,
Blessed One, you are our Light,
Keep this community in peace and safety,
through the hours of the night to come.
As lamps fill our homes with brightness
send also the illumination of your Holy Spirit**

to enlighten and cheer our hearts.
Grant us tranquil evening hours,
sleep in good conscience,
and a peaceful waking, renewed by your love,
through Christ, our Defender and Daystar. Amen.

Adapted from Simple Prayers for Complicated Lives, by Jennifer Phillips; New York: Church Publishing, 2006

The leader now lights the candles at the Altar as we meditate in silence.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5.

SONG OF PRAISE

**All: Holy One of blessing,
you created us in your image and pronounced us good.
As the God of transformations,
you set us free to change and grow,
even while you hold us close in love and grace.
Strengthen us to love and serve you,
in Christ's holy Name. Amen.**

Adapted from the Rite of Renaming, The Episcopal Church

THE PSALMS

A Psalm of Transformation Psalm 30

We read the Psalm responsively, one verse read by the leader, the next by the congregation.

I will praise you, O Yahweh,
for You lifted me up,
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

**O Yahweh my God,
I cried to you for help and you healed me.**

O Yahweh, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life
from among those gone down to the Pit.

**Sing praises to Yahweh, O you faithful ones,
and give thanks to Yahweh's holy name.**

For Yahweh's anger lasts but a moment,
whose favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may last for a night,
but joy comes in the morning.

**I used to think in my prosperity,
"I shall never be disturbed."**

By your favor, O Yahweh,
You made me strong as a mountain;
but when you hid your face, I was troubled.

**To you, O Yahweh, I call;
and to you, my God, I make my prayer:**

"What profit is there in shedding my blood,
in going down to the Pit?
Would the dust give you praise?
Would it tell of your faithfulness?"

**Hear, O Yahweh, and have mercy on me!
O Yahweh, be my helper!"**

You turned my mourning into dancing;
You took off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy.

**Therefore I will sing praise to you
and not be silent.
O Yahweh my God,
I will give thanks to you for ever.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

From Joseph J Arackal (transl), The Psalms in Inclusive Language. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1993

THE LESSON

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE REFLECTION

A personal meditation on transformation

MUSIC

Music selected by the worship leader or author of the reflection.

PRAYERS

Prayer leader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prayer leader: Let us pray.

From fear of staying still,

O God, deliver us.

From fear of surrender,

O God, deliver us.

From fear of decision,

O God, deliver us.

From fear of losing respect,

O God, deliver us.

From fear of facing our fears,

O God, deliver us.

But from the fear that marks your presence,

We beseech you, O God, do not deliver us.

Amen.

Adapted from Janet Morley, All Desires Known, Harrisburg: Morehouse, 1994

CREATIVE RESPONSE

A participant offers a poem, piece of art, dance etc that they have chosen to reflect transformation or some other aspect of the service.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Leader: May God bless us with the imagination and courage to be transformed into the fullness of who God made us to be; and may we know the peace and love of the one, holy, and undivided Trinity, this evening and for ever more.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Music selected by the worship leader

On August 24 you are welcome to walk the labyrinth while the music is playing.

Thank you for worshipping with us tonight.

Would you like to participate in a future service? We practice community-led worship. Whether you would like to read something, contribute a spoken piece or musical offering, or help with organization- you are welcome! Please email jowj@stpaulcathedral.org or call cell 619.840.2327