

Contemporary Order of Worship

March 5, 2023

Worship Series: Busy: Reconnecting to An Unhurried God

Message: Preparing the Table

Gathering *Come to the Table of Grace*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Threshold Moment

Sing Verse 1 of Come and Find the Quiet Center

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded lives we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor: Table-Setting God, we come today hungry for company.

People: Let us *make* room for You.

Pastor: Draw us in to this time of worship
to sit down at the place you have prepared for us.

People: Let us *find* room for You.

Pastor: Help us clear out the calendar of our lives
to make room for others in it.

People: Let us *be* room for You.

Sing Verse 2 of Come and Find the Quiet Center

**Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Shepherding God,
Guide us on this Lenten journey.**

**Reveal Your pathways of love and righteousness.
 Open our eyes to see that incredible way
 that You prepare a place for us.
 Enable us to see Your vision for the world
 that we may work as Your disciples and live as Your people.
 In Christ's name we pray. AMEN.**

Sing Verse 3 of Come and Find the Quiet Center

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
 Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
 There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
 in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.**

Children's Moment

Linda Biscardo

Prayers of People

Sarah Chambers

Offering Song

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 23

Lisa Dickinson

Message

Preparing the Table

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Invitation to Communion

Sarah Chambers

Time of Confession and Assurance

Leader: But...

People: there's so much to do.

Is there really time to take a moment?

Leader: But...

People: if I sit down I might never get up.

If I take this moment, I might lose my momentum.

Leader: But...

People: I'm barely making ends meet anyway.

And it's hard to believe this moment comes free of charge.

What will it cost me in the long run?... this “taking a moment?”

Leader: What will it cost you if you don't take this moment?

Leader: So just...Pause...Breathe...Trust

People: Help us, Lord, Pause...breathe...trust

**Take time to be holy, speak oft with the Lord;
Abide in him always, and feed on his Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.**

People: Giving God, we open now to You.

**You offer so many blessed moments that we pass by in our busy-ness.
And because we miss that connection with you,
we miss so many possibilities to connect with others
so worthy of our time.
Forgiving God, we open now to you.**

Leader: Know that God's moments await you
when you say “yes” and come to the table of God's grace.
Know that this comes without price.
Know that you are God's beloved.
In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**People: Know that you are God's beloved.
In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

**Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.**

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH 13

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .
 To pause, breathe, and trust in the One who gives all things.

In the beginning there was One Vast Moment that contained all things.
 And then in one breath, You God, Creator of All Things, set in motion
 an unhurried sequence of astounding, life-inducing, grace-infusing moments
 that led us to this “now,” this people, made in the image of You.
 Along the way You remained steadfast and sure, unhurried and patient with us.
 You rescued us time and again from the rush of our own making
 and promised we would never be alone.

And so, we Your people on earth
 and with all the company of heaven
 praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are You and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 He took time, calling folks by name to follow him,
 to be healed, to be renewed, to be transformed.
 By his life, ministry, suffering, death and resurrection
 we can know this communion together
 for he promised a new covenant
 by water and the Spirit.

He said to us, “Peace, be still. And know I am always with you.”

**Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
 And run not before Him, whatever betide.
 In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
 And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.**

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
 Jesus looked around the table.

Here were his followers that he called, each by name.
 Some he knew were scared.
 Some he knew were tired.
 Some he knew would betray and run and hide.

But he took bread anyway, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
 gave it to his disciples, and said:
 “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
 gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 poured out for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.”

And so, because we find ourselves often scared, tired, and ready to run...
 because we find ourselves with a death-hold on the rat-race of life...
 because we need so much to remember Christ’s offering for us,
 we offer ourselves and proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
 on us gathered here,
 and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Make them be for us
 the body and blood of Christ
 that we may be for world
 the body of Christ,
 redeemed by his blood.
 As Jesus is present at is table,
 may we set a table for the world,
 offering moments of solace, peace, grace.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other,
 and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ comes in final victory,
 and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
 now and for ever. Amen.

**Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
 Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
 Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
 Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.**

The Lord's Prayer
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
 On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread
 And forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom,
 and the power and the glory. Forever. AMEN.**

Breaking of the Bread

Giving the Bread and Cup

**Prayer Following Communion
 Eternal God,
 we give You thanks for this holy mystery
 in which You have given Yourself to us.
 Grant that we may go into the world
 in the strength of Your Spirit,
 to give ourselves to others
 in the name our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

*Closing Song

The Table

*Benediction

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

Come and Find the Quiet Center (Reprise)