



Service for the Lord's Day

Created in God's Image: Transgender Children and the Church

August 25, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Please SILENCE ALL Personal Electronic Devices Before Worship.

We Gather as God's People

Welcome to our worship service. Take a moment to quiet yourself as we prepare ourselves for worship.

Welcome and Preparation for Worship

Welcome to Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church! In this space, we invite you to bring all of who you are - your identity, your beliefs, your doubts, your story. Our prayer is that together we will experience God's presence. We invite you to sign the pew pads, which will be passed from the back of the sanctuary to the front. Please fill out the information, share with the others in your row, and then pass it to the row in front of you. Thank you. After worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

Prelude

Announcements of Our Church Life and Ministry

The Centering Song *PH* # 304 (verse 1)..... "Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;

Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Call to Worship [Responsive] Deacon Julie Anderson

One: The Lord be with you.

***Many:* And also with you.**

One: Some people brought their children to Jesus so that he could bless them by placing his hands on them. But his disciples told the people to stop bothering him.

***Many:* We will send no one away.**

One: In those days, when there was a very great multitude, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to himself, and said to them, "I have compassion on the multitude, because they have stayed with me now three days, and have nothing to eat. If I send them away fasting to their home, they will faint on the way, for some of them have come a long way."

***Many:* We will send no one away.**

One: And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.” But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, “Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.”

Many: **We will send no one away.**

One: Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters are walking with us on the path of the disciple. They have chosen to be there because they feel God's call to them. Some have struggled throughout their lives with questions and uncertainties about their identity, their acceptability, their status as children of God. Some have dared to tell their story, resulting at times in warm acceptance and other times in cold rejection. Some have come to understand that God loves them unconditionally and embraces them as valued members of the human family; others are not so sure.

Many: **We as a community of faith value diversity and celebrate those differences as intentional acts of God's creation. In that the realm of God includes all persons, we welcome and include all persons including persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and family units in the full life of the congregation. We will send no one away!**

One: The Spirit says, “Come.” Let each one who hears the Spirit say, “Come,” for all are welcome here.

Many: **Let us worship God in whose image we are all made!**

***Opening Hymn** *PH* # 285..... “God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”

***The Prayer of the Day** [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: Let us pray... God, who made us in Your image, teach us to love ourselves as You love us.

Many: **God, who made me in Your image, allow me to show that image to the world.**

One: God, who made us in Your image, help us to see Your image in all those we meet.

Many: **God, who made me in Your image, teach me to conserve and protect all Your creation.**

One: God, who made us in Your image, bless, protect, and keep us and all Your children safe.

Many: **The One who breathed life into our lungs continues to be present with us.**

One: They, who have made us reflective of their own image, have forgiven us all and made us new creations. Blessed with God's mercy and grace, let us go forth with love and peace, honoring and upholding the dignity of all we meet, knowing we see reflections of God's image all around us.

Many: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***Two+** *(A new way to share the peace of Christ and greet one another.)*

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Matthew 18:20

Question: What is one thing that identifies you as a Child of God?

(We will move into the Fellowship Hall as we share Christ's Peace.)

***The Offering Will be Received as You Exit the Sanctuary**

We Listen for and Explore God's Word Together

Your call to follow Jesus means that you are called to be the best version of yourself that you can be—who God made you to be. Civil discourse requires that we treat people with respect as we seek and serve Christ in each other and strive for the respect and dignity of every human being. It means treating people how we want to be treated, even in disagreement and even if we do not have shared values. As we enter this time of exploring Scripture and our calling as Followers of Christ, please: *Respect, *Listen Deeply, *Speak for Yourself, *Try to Understand, *Share Talk Time. *Speak Respectfully, *Gratitude, *Suspend Judgment, *Disagree – Don't Debate, *Practice Forgiveness.

***Pay Attention to Your Feelings and Thoughts – If you do not feel safe asking a question or commenting on a topic, write it down and ask someone to help you give voice to it or talk it through. If something hurts your feelings, acknowledge that the comment (not the person) hurt and explain why.**

Prayer for Illumination [Responsive]

Leader: Let us pray... Gracious and Holy God,

People: Give us wisdom to perceive your Diligence to seek you, Patience to wait for you, Eyes to behold you, and life to proclaim you in the way we love and accept one another. Amen. *St. Benedict*

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Readers Theatre (see below)

Narrator: Then God said,

Congregation: 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

Narrator: So God created humankind in God's own image, in the image of God, They created them; male and female, They created them. God blessed them....

And it was so. God saw everything that They had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us,

Many: We give thanks to God!

Terms to Know and Questions for Our Reflection & Discussion:

Terms:

Intersex: Is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.

LGBTQ: A collection of identities including lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, aromantic, pansexual and polysexual. Alternate abbreviations include LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQ+, LGBTQIA and LGBTQIAPP+. transstudent.org/definitions

Gender identity: One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither — how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. hrc.org

Cisgender: A person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth (for example, woman and female). Often abbreviated to "cis." uwhealth.org

Transgender: Transgender is a term that describes gender identity, gender expression and behavior that does not conform with ascribed gender norms for one's sex at birth. dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth/resources.htm

Nonbinary: Nonbinary is one term people use to describe gender identities that don't fall exclusively into one of two categories: male or female. transequality.org

Gender expansive: An umbrella term that expands notions of gender expression and identity beyond what is perceived as the expected gender norms for one's society or context. pflag.org/glossary

Gender nonconforming: A term used to describe some people whose gender expression is different from conventional expectations of masculinity and femininity. The term is not a synonym for transgender or transsexual. glad.org

Cross-dresser - n. A person who wears clothing commonly associated with the "opposite" sex

Queer - adj. Formerly a pejorative, queer is often used as an umbrella term for people who identify outside of traditional gender and sexual identities

Self-harm: Self-harm or self-injury means hurting yourself on purpose. Self-harm isn't the same as attempting suicide. However, it is a symptom of emotional pain that should be taken seriously. If someone is hurting themselves, they may be at an increased risk of feeling suicidal. nami.org

Hormone blockers: Hormone blockers work by blocking the hormones — testosterone and estrogen — that lead to puberty-related changes in young transgender peoples' bodies. This stops phenomena like periods and breast growth, or voice-deepening and facial hair growth. Plannedparenthood.org

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

What does it mean for you to be created in God's sacred image?

What identifies you as a Child of God in your eyes?

What identifies you as a Child of God in the eyes of others?

What identifies you as a Child of God in God's eyes?

What does it mean for you to be loved and accepted in the Church as a Child of God?

Talk about a time when you, as a Child of God, did not feel that the Church accepted you for whom God created you to be?

Likewise, talk about a time when you did feel the Church loved and accepted you for whom God created you to be?

What might it look like to see transgender people thriving in Christian communities?

Larger Group Sharing

We Respond to God's Love

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People [Responsive] Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

Leader: We pray to the Lord... *People:* Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (using 'debtors' and 'debtors'...)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Depart to Do God's Will

***Closing Hymn** (See copies on the tables) "Come! Live in the Light! (We Are Called)"

***The Sending** [Responsive]..... Rev. Scott Marrese-Wheeler

One: What's the "good word" we have for the world? What do we say through the worship and witness of our church?

Many: We say, "We believe in God, known in Jesus Christ." We say, "Let there be justice and peace!"

One: We say, "Come, accept the cost and joy of discipleship."

Many: We say, "Our congregation is Open and Affirming."

One: It is good to voice our beliefs and commitments. But say what we will, even in angelic tones, if we do not love each other, our talk is cheap. We shall sound to the world like clanging cymbals.

Many: We thank God for the joy of learning!

One: We are curious about the world within us, the world around us and the worlds beyond us.

Many: We wonder about the Creator of it all.

One: Exploring tradition, scripture, and experience, we pray and reason together.

Many: Our faith seeks understanding.

One: It is good to grow in knowledge and wisdom. But even if we knew everything, even if we have mountain-moving faith,

Many: if we do not love each other, we have gained nothing.

One: What does love ask of us?

Many: Love asks that we be patient and kind as we build an inclusive faith community, that we abandon arrogance, that we risk new things, that we not delight in the failings of others, that we rejoice in discerning and living God's truth.

One: Love is strong!

Many: It believes and hopes and endures.

One: But sometimes even love falters.

Many: Then we may forgive and accept forgiveness, so that love may be renewed.

One: Sustained by God's Spirit, three things abide within and among us, faith, hope, and love.

Many: And the greatest of these is love.

One: Children of God, we are loved by the One in whose image we are all created. Go now in peace, sharing the Love of Christ, being the Light that shines in the darkness of hatred and fear, and offering grace and compassion to all. And all God's people said:

Many: Amen.

Postlude



The liturgy this morning is from: Call to Worship ~ Adapted From St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, OK More Light Sunday, 2005 and Send No One Away! By Meredith Bischoff President, Welcoming Communities Network, Community of Christ and adapted from the welcoming statement of Basileia: An Open Door Community of Christ); The Prayer of the Day ~ "God, Who Made Me in Your Image" From the More Light Presbyterians Retreat & Mission Weekend New Orleans, LA, 2006; The Sending ~ Adapted from Word By Rev. Ann B. Day Program Coordinator, Open and Affirming Program of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns 1987-2007 Based on I Corinthians 13:1-13 Originally published in Shaping Sanctuary.

Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church is committed to using language in such a way that all members of the community of faith may recognize themselves to be included, addressed, and equally cherished before God. Seeking to bear witness to the whole world, the church struggles to use language which is faithful to the biblical truth and which neither purposefully nor inadvertently excludes people because of gender, color, or other circumstance in life. (Book of Order, W-1.2006)

Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and refreshment following worship today.

- Today we welcome Rev. Hugh Drennan, and Jenny and Mike Winter, who live in Lake Mills. They were married in Madison 17 years ago, and are celebrating 21 years together. Jenny is an Internal Medicine and Pediatrics physician with Fort Health Care. Mike was a stay-home parent for 11 years, before returning to work about two years ago. He works for Lake Mills Elementary School as a special education para. They have two daughters, Katie and Trish. Katie is 12 years old and will be in 7th grade this coming school year. Katie enjoys fishing, playing with her pets and playing video games. Trish is 11 years old and entering 6th grade. Trish enjoys dancing, acting and making videos. The Winters spend family time together going on hikes, camping, and riding bikes. Summer vacations are spent at National Parks, having already visited 15 National Parks. Bryce Canyon is their favorite so far.
- Our liturgist today is Deacon Julie Anderson.
- Our musician today is Angie Williams.
- Our ushers/greeters today are Stan & Kay Lund.
- **Nursery care is provided today by the Deacons.**
- Printed copies of sermons are available in the box on the wall outside of the church office and on our website www.OCPChurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS —

- If you would like to be added to the mailing list for our newsletter, *The Good News*, please send either your email (preferred) or snail mail address to the church office. (Our addresses are listed on the last page of the bulletin.)
- **The Mission Committee reminds all folks to share their loose change in the Least Coin Crock, as a reminder of the prayers they say. Think of all the coins we would have if every time you prayed, you set aside a coin. These funds are to be used for local mission work. This is a year-long mission collection.**
- Help us save “pig points.” Please turn in your receipts from Piggly Wiggly in the brown bag in the narthex, so that we can receive a rebate. All funds received are used for mission projects.
- Copies of *These Days*, a daily devotional magazine, are available at the rear entrance. Donations are voluntary.

EVENTS —

- Next Sunday, September 2 – 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY —

- Communion Server - OPEN
- Liturgist – Ralph Spaulding
- Ushers/Greeters – Mark Touhey & Judy Schroeder
- Fellowship – Labor Day Weekend – No Coffee Hour
- Nursery – Deacons



AUGUST 2019 Update

The Cambridge Food Pantry & Resource Center located at 211 South Street is open for shopping every Monday evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Guests are invited to shop every other Monday. Donation hours during the month of August are Monday 9 am to 12 pm & 4 pm to 5 pm, Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm and Thursday 9:00 am to 3 pm.

VOLUNTEERS If you would like to volunteer at the Food Pantry go to the CAP website at www.cambridgecap.net and click on the Get Involved Tab and then click Volunteerism. The link will then take you to the volunteer sign up. At present the Food Pantry could use client assistants from 5:15 to 7:15 on Monday evenings. Anyone without internet access can also sign up by calling the Food Pantry at 423-8142 and Nancy will sign you up and answer any questions you may have.

FRESH PRODUCE The Cambridge Food Pantry will take any extra vegetables you may have from gardens especially wanted are tomatoes and cucumbers.

FOOD NEEDED AT CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

Currently the Food Pantry can use Sugar, Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Tuna, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Hearty Progressive Soups, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Shampoo and Conditioner. **THANK YOU!**

CAMBRIDGE FOOD PANTRY will be closed Labor Day September 2nd but will be open for clients to shop on Tuesday September 3rd.



Community Café – Thursday, September 5th is the next Community Café Meal! The meal will be hosted by East Koshkonong Lutheran church who will be serving Hot Dishes, Salad, Bread and Desserts. The meal will be served at the Cambridge High School, 403 Blue Jay Way, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited to come.

PLEASE HOLD THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN PRAYER THIS WEEK —

Griffin Clark (grandson of Bill & Patty Strohmusch)

Teagan Mae Groves, Pastor Scott's great-niece (born July 11 to his nephew, Heath, & his wife, Samantha)

Don Hawkins (husband of Margaret Hawkins)

Linda Johnson (mother of Randy Johnson)

Wade Kubina (son of Jo Kubina)

Shawn Spack (son of Jenine & Jack Spack)

John "Jack" Swank and his family (birth father of Renee Roland Johnson)

Our children and unchurched children and families, our military around the world, our enemies, our church leaders, families and individuals experiencing financial, job-hunting, health, or relationship problems.

The family of Vivian Olson and other families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

If you would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please leave word in the church office or contact the pastor. Permission to be included in this publicly posted list has been obtained from those listed or their families.

Church Schedule

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday

Communion: First Sunday of each month

Church School: Children through grade 7 meet at 10:00 a.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday
(Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Video of Worship Service: Cable 98 or 987 Sun. 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. 8 a.m. & Noon
(Link to video also available on our website or Facebook page)

Fellowship & Refreshment: Following worship service each week

Pastoral Office Hours: Generally 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Tuesday or by appointment

Business Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday

(Church hours are approved by Session and posted on church entry doors.)

Telephone/Fax: 608-423-3001

Email: Office@OCPChurch.com or Pastor@OCPChurch.com

Web: www.OCPChurch.com

Mailing Address: 313 E. Main St., Cambridge, WI 53523-9629



Visit us on Facebook: Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church

SESSION (Meets the second Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2019: Mare Stewart, Mike Stitz

Class of 2020: Ann Febock, Renée Roland Johnson,

Class of 2021: Melanie Rumpf

BOARD OF DEACONS (Meets the third Sunday of each month.)

Class of 2019: Joe Leto

Class of 2020: Randy Johnson, Judy Pearson

Class of 2021: Judy Schroeder, Cheryl Stitz

CHURCH STAFF

Music—

Accompanists: Karen Brunk, Marian Korth, Emily Rausch,
Angie Williams

Business Manager: Ruth Poole

Pastor: Pastor Scott Marrese-Wheeler: (608) 417-0231 cell;

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