

These Lives Are Precious”

January 3, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude- Julie

Threshold- video - God is Holding Your Life

Opening Collect Prayer

Leader: Holy and Just God,
You have shown us what is right and good.
Open us this day to a vision of the world made all-right
so that we might follow your ways and know the peace of your reign
on earth as it is in heaven.

People: We praise you for your steadfast presence,
holding our lives together in love.

Amen.

This is a Day of New Beginnings UMH 383

This is the day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive and goes before us to show and to share what love can do. This is a day of a new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Lukan Psalter translation

*O God, give your anointed one your judgment—
and your justice.*

*Teach your chosen one to govern your people rightly
and bring justice to the oppressed.*

*The mountains will bring the people peace
and the little hills bring justice!*

*Your anointed will defend the oppressed
among the people,*

*save the children of the poor,
and crush the oppressor.
The reign of your anointed will endure
as long as the sun and moon—
throughout all generations.*

*The rule of the chosen one will be
like rain coming down on the meadow,
like showers watering the earth.
Justice will flower through the days,
and abundance of peace 'til the moon
shall be no more.*

*Tarshish and the Isles will offer gifts;
Arabia and Sheba will bring tribute.
All rulers will pay homage,
and all the nations will serve your anointed.*

*Your anointed will rescue the poor
when they cry out,
and the oppressed when there is no
one to help them.*

*Your chosen one will take pity on the lowly
and the poor,
and will save their lives.*

*Your chosen one
will rescue them all from violence
and oppression,
and will treat their blood as precious.*

Psalm Song: Psalm 72 -These Lives are Precious

Sometimes I drive too fast, sometimes I risk it all

Sometimes I'm reckless, and act like I'm made of steel.

But I'm just flesh and bones, a product of the Fall

Still, I have purpose, and this I know to be real.

Life is precious, life is sweet, like the earth beneath my feet.

Though I know I'm passing through, I know I belong to You.

Life is precious, life is sweet, and this truth makes it complete.

Knowing Jesus died for me, life is precious, life is precious, life is sweet.

I can't see past myself when I get depressed. I take for granted this life you've given me.
There are a million ways, I've been so richly blessed,
I can't imagine not being able to see.
Life is precious, life is sweet, like the earth beneath my feet.
Though I know I'm passing through I know I belong to You.
Life is precious, life is sweet, and this truth makes it complete.
Knowing Jesus died for me, life is precious, life is precious, life is sweet.
And this life I live in the body, I live by faith in the One who gave Himself for me.
Life is precious, life is sweet like the earth beneath my feet.
Though I know I'm passing through I know I belong to You.
Life is precious, life is sweet, and this truth makes it complete knowing Jesus died for me. Life is precious, life is precious, life is sweet.

Reflection

“Selah”

The Psalms have a repeated direction throughout—the word “Selah.” Scholars are not sure exactly what it means. Perhaps because the Psalms were to be used in worship, we can surmise that the word indicates a pause, or an invitation for a musical instrument to be played. In this worship series, we will use an instrumental sound to remind us to take a pause, a breath, and remember that the settling of our hearts can offer the feeling that we are held in the hands of the Divine. We will hear singing bowl and then have some silence. Feel free to close your eyes if you like. Imagine yourself held in safety and love and care. When you hear singing bowl again, open your eyes.

Silence

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community
God of Justice, hear our prayer.
Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world
Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.
Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic
Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.
Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry, and alone
Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.
Let us pray for those who live in comfort,
for Christ-like hospitality and generosity

Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.
Holy and Living One,
for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,
hear our prayer.

We Are Called FWS 2172

Come, live in the light
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God
We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God
Come, open your heart
Show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So, all hatred and blindness will be no more
We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God
Sing, sing a new song
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign and we'll walk with each other
As sisters and brothers united in love (united in love)
We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God
We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly (We are called)
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Benediction

Postlude