

MOUNT AUBURN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 25, 2008

7:00 PM

PRELUDE

"Duet"

Josef Rheinberger

(The service begins with the Prelude.)

INTROIT

"Come Let Us Worship Godde***" (The word is pronounced God.)

CHANCEL DRAMA

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Susan Quinn Bryan

People of Godde, this day is ours!

**A day to acknowledge our hunger: hunger for love,
hunger for respect, hunger for justice.**

People of Godde, this day is ours!

A day to proclaim that all of Godde's creation –

Gay, Straight, Bisexual, Transgender –

must be affirmed and made to feel welcome in our communities.

People of Godde, this day is ours!

**A day to proclaim that we have the right to choose whom we will love,
and we are entitled to the same legal rights and privileges as other couples.**

People of Godde, this day is ours!

How deep is your hunger?

How long can you wait in order to be fed the bread which will sustain you?

Our hunger is deep.

But we will not --cannot wait --

for someone else's permission to be who Godde created us to be.

Even as we gather for worship,

we begin to feed one another with the bread of life,

a bread that will not run out even in times of scarcity.

Let us seize the day and make it count.

Let us seize the day and

proclaim the good work that is taking place here and now.

(Adapted from Shaping Sanctuary. Used with permission.)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Janet McCune Edwards

*HYMN

"All Are Welcome" (see insert)

Two Oaks

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

They say that confession is good for the soul.

Perhaps if we confess the sins of the church,

that might be good for a church in danger of losing it's soul.

CONFESSION (Responsively)

We confess that the circle of love is repeatedly broken

because of the sin of exclusion.

We create separate circles: the inner circle and the outer circle.

We confess that the circle of love is broken
whenever we cannot see eye to eye,
 whenever we cannot link hand to hand,
whenever we cannot live heart to heart and affirm our differences.
 We confess that the circle of love is broken
whenever there is alienation, whenever there is misunderstanding,
whenever there is insensitivity or a hardening of the heart.
 We confess that the circle of love is broken
the circle of power and the circle of despair,
the circle of privilege and the circle of deprivation.
 Through Godde's grace we are forgiven,
 by the mercy of our Creator,
 through the love of Christ,
 and in the power of the Spirit.
Let us rejoice and be glad!
Glory to Godde! Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Jim Spahr

Let us pray.
 Shake us from our complacency, O Godde.
 Set our hearts on fire for justice and love
 as we hear your written word that we may witness to the Living Word.
 Teach us what the Spirit is saying to the church in our day.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Scriptures: Micah 6:6-8
 Psalm 118:21-25
 Epistle: 1 John 4:16-21

Jim Spahr
 Jackie Spahr
 Theresa Spahr

ANTHEM

"Keep Hope Alive"
 Chancel Choir

Ysaye M. Barnwell

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Chet Spahr

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

"Why Are We Here?"

At This Time (The Disciplinary Case: Sara Taylor)
 In This Space: (Mount Auburn's History --Hal Porter)
 Standing Before Pharoah: (Facing Oppressive Systems: Jim Rigby and Lisa Larges)
 Living Beings; Loving Now!: (Annie and Sherrill Figuera /Brian Anderson and Gordon Devinney/ Craig Peters and Maureen DeBoer)

PRAYER

Janie Spahr

CALL FOR OFFERING

Susan Quinn Bryan

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

**O Godde, may we who bear your name
by gentle love your grace proclaim,
Christ's gift of peace on earth declare
and your anointing Spirit share.**

***DEDICATION**

Let us pray.

This money is but a token of our love for you,
symbols of our willingness to offer our lives
for the work of wedding justice and love in all ways and all places.

Take and use these our offerings to move us closer to the Beloved community.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Susan Quinn Bryan and Scott Clark

(Today we will be served by intinction--you will be served a piece of bread, which you then dip in the grape juice.)

Invitation

Our Godde is Hospitality.

Our Godde is Welcome.

Our Godde is the Invitation, the Table, the Feast.

By Godde's Spirit, may we learn to receive and offer grace,

to share from the sustenance of our lives

and not simply its crumbs.

May Godde embolden us as we serve as the voice of those who continue to ask the church for justice and bread.

Our Godde is for all.

This table is an open table –

as open as Jesus' outstretched arms.

You need not be a member of this or any church.

You need only come . . . all are welcome.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsively)

Godde is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Beloved.

Let us give thanks to our Godde.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The minister continues. . .)

Gracious Godde,

We give thanks for your presence in all of life

and for your presence with us now

as we seek to discern your will

and your wisdom for this community.

Remind us, Divine Spirit,

that you seek to fill us with your life-giving power.

Encourage us, Eternal Wisdom,
to loosen our grip on our individual assumptions
so that we might hear your voice speaking through our community.
Disturb us, Holy Advocate,
that we might be unsettled from our complacency
in order to become agents of your grace in a world in need.
As we gather as your people,
called forth to proclaim your Word
and to transform hearts turned cold,
give us a clearer sense of what we are to say and do.
Lead us back to our ancestors of the faith
who sought your guidance when fear, confusion,
and despair seemed to rule the day.
Fill us with the spirit of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam
as they led the Hebrew people from slavery to freedom;
Fill us with the spirit of Queen Esther
as she defied conventional wisdom to save her people from sure destruction;
Fill us with the spirit of the disciples,
bereft from the departure of their brother and guide, Jesus,
yet able to organize a new community
founded on compassion, courage,
and shared resources;
Fill us with the spirit of Stephen, Lydia, Paul, Timothy,
Dorcas, and other early Christians
who risked living a minority faith
in an empire of oppression and enforced conformity.
Filled with their spirits, and with yours,
we join our voices with the choirs of heaven
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

(Sung):

Holy! Holy! Holy! One Godde Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name in earth
and sky and sea!
Holy! Holy! Holy! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is Christ who comes to set us free!

(The minister continues...)

O Godde, hear the prayers of this community
as we seek to make a public witness on behalf of
our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
sisters and brothers.
Help us to honor the voices of those
who have personally known exclusion,
heartache, fear, uncertainty, and even violence.
Broaden our awareness of the movement
of your Holy Spirit in our world,

so that we might know once again
that your ways are not always our ways.
Call us to more fully respect the blessed worth
of all your beloved children.
...Guide us to new ways of being church for a new age.
We proclaim together that great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

(The minister continues:)

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
that we may be one with all who share this feast,
united in ministry in every place.
As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.
In passionate, eager, and joyful expectation we pray.
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution (Responsively)

We give you thanks that Jesus,
on the night before he died,
took bread,
and after giving thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.
Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ,
we take from your creation this bread and this wine
and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising,
as we await the day of his coming.
With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you
to be a living and holy sacrifice,

dedicated to your service.
Let us pray the prayer our brother, Jesus, taught us,
saying:

Prayer of our Savior (Unison)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving Godde, in whom is heaven;
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of your world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we inflict and absorb from one another, forgive us,
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

(from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Serving Hymn

"What Does our Godde Require?"

Strathdee

- Part 1 What does our Godde require of us? (repeat)
- Part 2 Justice, kindness, walk humbly with our Godde
- Part 3 To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with our Godde

Prayer after Communion

Wonderful Godde,
we have been fed at this table
emboldened and empowered by the radical inclusion of the one who invited us and fed us here.
Send us out to take risks and challenge oppressive systems . . .
and dance. Yes, dance!
For to accept your call to the dance of new life is to tap our feet to the cadence of justice and
snap our fingers to the joy of life transformed.

***HYMN**

"Bread for the Journey" (see insert)

Bret Hesla

***CHARGE**

Congregation to those who have taken risks for equal marriage rights:
May you be ever aware of Godde's love as you work for justice.
May your feet be sure on the paths of righteousness and your heart soar with joy.

Those who have taken risks for equal marriage rights to the congregation:
May your hearts be ever open,
and if you have been blessed by a relationship,
may you cherish the one Godde has sent into your life
that you may both know more fully Godde's love for you.

***BENEDICTION**

Janie Spahr

RESPONSE #432

"Song of Hope"

Argentine Folk Song

May the Godde of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the Godde of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace, singing,
share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

POSTLUDE

"Sortie"

Theodore Dubois

**Please stand as you are able.*

Those participating in the service: Chancel Drama written by Linda Vaccariello.

Participants: Jerry Edens, Linda Vaccariello and Carl Ward

Earl Apel, Organist, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

Susan Quinn Bryan, Pastor, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

Scott Clark is a senior at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and is currently serving as an intern at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa, California.

Maureen DeBoer and Craig Peters are native Californians, currently living in San Francisco with their daughter, Brooke Liberty. Maureen and Craig have been together for over eight years and had their commitment ceremony performed by their dear friend and inspiration, Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr. Maureen is a licensed real estate agent and Craig is the Director of Training for the Office of the Public Defender in San Francisco.

Stephanie Dreyer, Interpretation for the Deaf

Janet McCune Edwards, Parish Associate at The Community of Reconciliation, Pittsburgh, PA and board member, More Light Presbyterians

Sherrill Figuera, married by Janie. Part of one of the couples named in the case against her.

Lisa Larges, Minister Coordinator, That All May Freely Serve, San Francisco CA

Christian Miller, Director of Music, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

Hal Porter, Pastor Emeritus, Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church

Jim Rigby, Pastor at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas

Chet Spahr

Jim and Jackie Spahr

Sara Taylor, counsel for Janie Spahr. She has a solo practice in San Francisco.

** Why Godde? Godde (still pronounced God) is meant to make us stop for a moment and remind us that the Divine contains both masculine and feminine qualities. It's a quiet (literally) way of proclaiming the radical inclusion of the Creator's own self, and therefore of all creation.