

The background is an abstract composition of various colors including shades of blue, green, purple, pink, and orange. The colors are layered and textured, giving it a painterly or watercolor-like appearance. A single, faint heart shape is visible in the lower-left quadrant, partially obscured by the other colors.

The Season of Sacred Story



PRAYING TOGETHER, SEASON OF SACRED STORY VII

PRELUDE "O God of Heaven and Earth" - Busarow

HYMN God May Your Justice

God, May Your Justice Roll Down

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8 ("Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty")

God, may your justice roll down like the waters you send here,
And may your righteousness flow like a stream without end here!
Praying this prayer, many have struggled and dared,
All for the world you intend here.

Christ, we give thanks for past saints who renewed education,
Freed the oppressed, brought your healing and fought segregation.
Savior and God, great were the risks they endured,
Bearing your hope and salvation.

We as your church now remember these stories of others
And pray your Spirit will send us, as your sons and daughters.
Show us the way we, too, can serve you each day
Till justice rolls down like waters.

Tune: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665 ("Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty")

Text: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

THE SEASON OF SACRED STORY GREETING

O God of every now and every then,
We pause to praise you for all the moments of our lives.

We praise you for the holy moments, remembered in story, that strengthen our faith.
We each have a story and our story has power.

We praise you for the aching moments, remembered in story, from which we learn.
We each have a story and our story has power.

We praise you for the extraordinary moments, remembered in story, that call us to
our better selves.
We each have a story and our story has power.

We praise you for every moment
and the beauty of stories that draw us closer to you.

THE COLLECT

God is with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of living waters you save us from the flood of violence and despair: reach out to us when faith is weak, when we are going under and make us unafraid to walk with you; through Jesus Christ, in whom we are raised. **Amen**

PSALM 133 *Presider & congregation read aloud together*

See how good, how pleasant it is for God's people to live together as one! It is like precious oil on Aaron's head running down on his beard, running down to the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Mount Hermon, falling on the hills of Zion.

For that is where Yahweh bestows the blessing—life that never ends.

THE SACRED STORY

Our contemporary reading is an excerpt from "Rebuilding the Cherokee Nation" - April 2, 1993, by Wilma Mankiller, former Principal chief of the Cherokee Nation

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

The people respond to each reading

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.

We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it. And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of love, you are with us in every transition and change. We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

God of mercy, God of peace, hear our prayer.

Grant us the courage to hear your call to engage in the personal and communal work of dismantling racism through deep listening, reflection, and action as a call to justice for all God's people.

Suffering God, disturb us.

We pray for relief from the ongoing scourge of gun violence. We pray for those who have died and those who have been wounded. We pray for our legislators, that they would look beyond their self-interests.

Sophia God, compel us to change.

We pray for all children, parents, faculty and staff as they seek to create a safe learning environment. May their hearts, bodies and minds be nourished as they record their own stories within this living history.

Creator God, guide us.

We pray for all those pushed to the margins facing food shortages, housing uncertainties, or lack of access to health care or mental health care. We pray for all who live in fear.

Tender God, hold us.

We now offer the specific concerns of this parish family...

The leaders will leave a period of time for the people to name their concerns silently, aloud or in the chat.

Help us create new stories that reflect the full inclusion of every human being.

Loving God, show us how to fully honor the rainbow of all humankind.

We now offer the thanksgivings of this parish family...

The leaders will leave a period of time for the people to name their thanksgivings silently, aloud or in the chat.

O God, you have created the wondrous diversity of our lives: hear our prayers and help us to walk humbly with you.

May our story grow as one of justice, strength and dignity for all. Amen.

THE PEACE

Peace of Christ is always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

"Make Me A Channel" - arr. Mark Hayes

Krista Donough, soprano Chris Henke, piano

THE LORD'S PRAYER Pray in the language and version that brings you closest to the Creator.

CLOSING PRAYER

God revealed in the strangers approach and the bread of hospitality, in the message of new life and the laughter of response. Thank you for disordering our boundaries

and releasing our desires in this feast of delight: draw us out of hidden places and centers of conformity to feel your laughter and live your pleasure. AMEN

HYMN O God We Hear Your Word of Grace

O God, We Hear Your Word of Grace
CAROL 8.6.8.6 D ("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

O God, we hear your word of grace;
The Psalmist tells us this:
That love and faith will soon embrace
And peace and justice kiss.
Then all will sing out, "God is good!"
Then harvests will increase.
And we will listen, loving God,
As you proclaim your peace.

The world proclaims a different word:
How can these things be so?
For all around this hurting earth
The seeds of discord grow.
When war and conflict, greed and pride
Would claim our loyalty,
Too often we have turned aside
From what we're called to be.

Lord, show us what we're called to do
As we await your day.
For waiting well means serving, too,
And walking in Christ's way.
Now by your Spirit, may we be
The bearers of your grace,
Till peace and justice both shall meet
And love and faith embrace.

Tune: Richard Storrs Willis, *Church Chorals and Choir Studies*, 1850 ("It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")
Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved

DISMISSAL

Friends, how good and pleasant it is to be together, hearing the stories of the saints among us. But now the service is ended — and now the wider service begins. Go in peace —
into the world, for the love of the world!

POSTLUDE "Lobt Den Herren" - Jan Bender

PARISH PICNIC

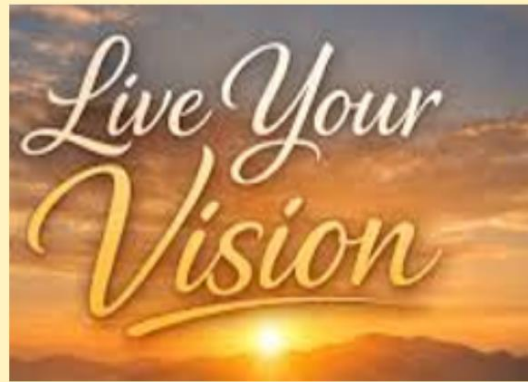
JOIN US!
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20

Be a part of...

- Dreaming dreams.
- Sharing hopes.
- Sharing stories.

Join us!

As we envision what
our future holds
and we prepare to
call our next Priest!



ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

* **The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. 1st and 3rd **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

* **The Book Group meets online at 7pm:**

8/31 There are Rivers in the Sky - Elif Shafak A dazzling feat of storytelling, *There Are Rivers in the Sky* entwines these outsiders with a single drop of water, which remanifests across the centuries. A source of life and harbinger of death, rivers—the Tigris and the Thames—transcend history, transcend fate: “Water remembers. It is humans who forget.”

Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

* **School Backpack Giveaway with the Table of Hope/CDC!**

A special thank you to all who donated to the Backpack School Supplies Drive for the Table of Hope. Redeemer was able to donate 2 full bags of school supplies this week in addition to online donations. Your support is greatly appreciated. Madeleine

***Earth Ministry & Environmental Sustainability Morristown Farmers Market 2026:** Sundays, June 21 through November 22-Produced by the Morristown Partnership and located in the Morristown Parking Authority Lot 10J at Spring and Morris Streets (behind the Morristown Post Office). Weather permitting.

Garden of Hope:

We welcome your vegan fruit & veggie scraps & rotten pieces, nut shells, coffee grinds, & tea bags (paper only, minus the string, staple, and tag)! You can be a part of converting "waste" to resource in the cycle of creation in our compost at the garden. Please bring it to church!

- Keep your eyes ready for the next Pop-Up Session
- Thank you to those who check and water as needed!

Peg can be reached at [pegonplanetearth\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pegonplanetearth@gmail.com) or see her on Sundays.

Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

Visit our website: <https://redeermorristown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorristown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky @redeermorristown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



Donate easily, by credit card, or directly from your bank account. Scan this QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, instantly connecting you to the mobile version of our web page. Try it!

Visit our website- www.redeermorristown.org and click on “Donate” in the upper right-hand corner.

Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>