

Kitchissippi United Church
November 24th, 2019
Trans Awareness Sunday

*Indicates please stand in body or spirit
Congregational responses in **BOLD** type.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE *Andante from Symphony no. 6* Tchaikovsky
(Tchaikovsky struggled throughout his life with societal pressures to repress his homosexuality. This led to a brief but disastrous marriage followed by a nervous breakdown and a non-fatal suicide attempt.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING TIME

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER†

We who have gathered here are a part of the family.

We also know that the family is much bigger still.

There are people we don't understand, there are people we disagree with,
there are people we don't like, there are people who don't like us.

We are challenged by God, to expand our vision of family,
until we see all of creation as one big family.

Let us pray together:

**Loving Creator, beyond our understanding yet closer than our breath,
breathe into us your love so that we may love ourselves and others as
you do. Help heal the fear, hate, and judgment that wound so many.
Help us know, deeply and certainly, that your love transcends all
labels, all categories, all words. Your love is. Your love rains down on
us all. Everyone is invited to your table. We each bring our whole and
broken parts and come together in your love, which binds us and heals
us all. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *All the Colors of the Rainbow (see insert)*

LEARNING TOGETHER

Kate Holden

SUNG RESPONSE *My Love Colours Outside the Lines* **MV 138**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION††

Ken Huffman

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways: in the song of a bird, in the babbling of a brook, in the voices of our friends, in the hug of loved ones, in the songs we sing, and in the stories of the Bible. **Speak to us now through the reading of scripture. Help us to hear your voice and follow the way of Jesus. Amen.**

READING Matthew 18:12-14 (pg.951)

RESPONSIVE PSALM 139

VU 861

READING Luke 10:25-37 (pg.1009)

RESPONSE TO THE SCRIPTURES

May the Spirit bless these readings to our understanding. **Amen.**

ANTHEM *They Shall Soar Like Eagles*

Laura Manzo

REFLECTION

Rev. Ruth Wood and Anne Wood

***HYMN** *Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design*

VU 623

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING *Silent All These Years*

Tori Amos

(Although Tori Amos is straight, her music has been embraced by the LGBTQ2S community and many of her songs speak to the importance of expressing one's true self. She once said "It was the gay community that gave me confidence.")

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Your Work O God*

VU 537

*Your work, O God, needs many hands, to help you everywhere,
And some there are who cannot serve, unless our gifts we share.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION†† (unison)

God of all peoples and God of all places, we present these offerings, that they may be used to extend your liberating peace. With them, we offer our varied ministries, that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
Laurie Joe

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN** *God of Many Faces (see insert)*

***COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**†††

The Spirit of God is upon you. Go to proclaim good news:

We go forth to set the captives free; to share new visions and to tell, by word and deed, the story of God's love for all people.

May God who loved us into being, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, and whose Spirit binds us together in one body, bless us all on our way. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL *Marche Royale* *Jean Baptiste Lully*
(Lully was a gay musician and dancer who worked as court composer for Louis XIV of France. He is considered a master of the French baroque style.)

(Please feel free to stay and listen or to move to the hall for coffee, tea and cookies. All are welcome!)

†**Call:** Edited from Speaking Our Truth Worship for International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia 2017, written by Ruth Wood, © 2017 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. **Prayer:** Written by Amy Johnson, found on the Thoughts On Blog. †† *From Celebrate God's Presence, used with permission*
††† Written by Darla Sloan, website: Prayers for Worship against Homophobia. Used with permission.

Thank you Rev. Ruth and her spouse, Anne for being with us this morning! Thank you to the Affirm Team for leading and taking part in the service.

Kitchissippi

UNITED CHURCH



November 24th, 2019
Trans Awareness Sunday

All the Colors of the Rainbow

(To the Tune of VU 104)

All the colors of the rainbow
live unseen in daily light,
but their splendors find expression
when released to human sight;
so the church reveals most beauty
where diversity is real:
breadth of race and class and gender,
room for doubt, and space to heal.

All the body's parts are wanted,
nor can one despise the rest:
head and hand must work together,
as must eye, ear, throat, and chest;
so the church needs all its members
for a range of ministries:
varied gifts with one great mission,
"Do this for the least of these."

Every language gains more music
when the words for peace appear:
Pax, Salaam, Eiríni, Heiwa,
Pace, Santi, Frieden, Mir.
Though our tongues make sounds that vary
all bespeak a common home:
longing for the end of conflict
and new life in God's Shalom.

Teach us, God, our need of others;
through them help us fully live.
Wean us from our selfish habits;
let us listen, learn, forgive.
May we see your longed-for image
in each human heart and face,
and behold how those around us
can be channels of your grace.

God of Many Faces

(To the Tune of VU 642)

God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days,
hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many genders, our world reflects you,
sunrise and sunset uniting our hues,
woven into a city with jewels of all shades,
houses of ruby and walls rowed with jade.

God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new names that reflect our true souls.
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word,
That will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,
Shifting more each day, through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
Holier every day, still becoming more true.