

HOMILY

"Faith Like a River: On Covenant"

by Terri J. Michos

Discussion of the homily will take place during coffee hour!



Hymn No.2

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (#108, Singing the Living Tradition)

Third Reading

"The central task of the religious community is to unveil the bonds that bind each to all. There is a connectedness, a relationship discovered amid the particulars of our own lives and the lives of others. Once felt, it inspires us to act for justice. It is the church that assures us that we are not struggling for justice on our own, but as members of a larger community. The religious community is essential, for alone our vision is too narrow to see all that must be seen, and our strength too limited to do all that must be done. Together, our vision widens and our strength is renewed."

—Mark Morrison-Reed ("The Task of the Religious Community")

Benediction

"If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace."

—Hosea Ballou

Extinguishing the Chalice

In unison:

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

November 1 – 14:00 Discussion Group, Hainerberg Chapel

November 15 – 14:00 Sunday Service, Hainerberg Chapel

Coffee Hour & Discussion of the Homily



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Faith Like a River: On Covenant



led by
Terri J. Michos



October 18th, 2015

Prelude

"River Flows in You" (by Yurima)

Welcome

Opening Reading (responsive)

When a holy enthusiasm seizes the heart
Your face lights up. You feel like a star singing.
Your very soul, hearing your song, is radiant.
It was, and it will be again.

With the sun on our brows,
Enthusiasm will bloom once more.
With paradise in our hearts
Clouds will disappear,
And the sun's rays bring the earth back to life.

The sun of your hope will shine again
Along the dangerous narrows of your life,
Bringing warmth and light
And the air of freedom, peace and happiness
It was, and it will be again.

You would embrace the whole world,
Have peace touch every flower,
You would like to give yourself away completely to everybody,
Forgive everything, play host to everyone.
You would lift this earth to heaven.
It was, and it will be again.
—Norbert Čapek ("Where holy enthusiasm is")



Hymn No.1

"I've Got Peace Like a River" (#100, Singing the Living Tradition)

Chalice Lighting

In unison:

We light this chalice as a beacon of the free church tradition, tradition that lives on in us, a tradition that calls us together by covenant, by mutual promise to walk together in the ways of faith. May ours be a community of love that calls us ever to peace, hope and justice.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

We invite you to light a candle at this time as an expression of your joy or concern that you'd like to share.

Story for All Ages

"The Agreement" (by Barry Lopez)

In unison:

Go now in peace, go now in peace. May the spirit of love surround you, everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Offertory

Second Reading (responsive)

I've known rivers:
I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.
I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.
I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.
I've known rivers
Ancient, dusky rivers.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
—Langston Hughes ("The Negro Speaks of Rivers")