Order of Podcast Worship
First United Methodist Church, Austin, TX
March 22, 2020

Greeting

Centering Music

Come and find the quiet center
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Opening Prayer

O God of the ages, God who has seen your people through slavery and famine and hardship of every kind, we wish so much was different in this world. We struggle to comprehend the loss that our world is facing, and our hearts and lives are bubbling over with uncertainty. But you have given us your son for these times, and in him we remember that we are not alone. Send your spirit to raise our spirits. Meet us in our low, questioning places, and remind us that while we are but creatures, we are also your beloved creatures. Care for us, make us strong in our weakness, and faithful in the living of these days. Amen.

Scripture Reading – 1 John 3:17-20

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Sermon

Devon Bailey
Musical Reflection

We’ve Come This Far By Faith

Benediction

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever he may send you;
may he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm;
may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you;
may he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors. Amen.

Worship Notes

A couple of book passages that Devon quoted in his sermon:

I sometimes visualize the ongoing cycle of racism as a moving walkway at the airport. Active racist behavior is equivalent to walking fast on the conveyor belt. The person engaged in active racist behavior has identified with the ideology of our White supremacist system and is moving with it. Passive racist behavior is equivalent to standing still on the walkway. No overt effort is being made, but the conveyor belt moves the bystanders along to the same destination as those who are actively walking. Some of the bystanders may feel the motion of the conveyor belt, see the active racists ahead of them, and choose to turn around...But unless they are walking actively in the opposite direction at a speed faster than the conveyor belt- unless they are actively antiracist- they will find themselves carried along with the others.” -Beverley Daniel Tatum, Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria

White progressives can be the most difficult for people of color because, to the degree that we think we have arrived, we will put our energy into making sure that others see us as having arrived. We put all the energy there rather than where it is actually needed in the work of ongoing self-awareness, continued education, relationship building, and actual antiracist practice. White progressives do indeed uphold and perpetuate racism, but our defensiveness and certitude make it virtually impossible to explain to us how we do so. -Robin Diangelo, White Fragility

This week’s music:

All Are Welcome
Marty Haugen
© 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.
We’ve Come This Far By Faith
Albert A. Goodson arr. Mary McDonald
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Come and Find the Quiet Center
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