

Summer 2010 – The Wrath of a Loving God?



GATHERING

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

O God, I am torn.
Do I rant or praise?
This world is so magnificent,
so flawed,
and I cannot divert
my gaze,
or heart,
from either.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Holy One, the ancient stories tell us
that you are a wrathful, punishing
God.

People: And yet, we read that you are slow to
anger,
compassionate,
showing steadfast, loving kindness
to all your creation.

Leader: Today, the prophets tell us
that the world will reap a terrible
harvest
from the seeds of greed and
selfishness
that we have sown for much too long.

People: And yet, we trust in your promise
that faithfulness will spring up from
the ground,
and righteousness will look down from
the sky.

Leader: You are God, our God,

a fountain of living water,
who will never leave us or forsake us.

All: We come to worship you, Holy One,
Creator, Sustainer,
and Hope of the world.

INVOCATION

HYMN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

COMMON CONFESSION

Leader: Holy Source of all that is,
we are enraptured
by the beauty of your created world.

and healing.

The Spirit blows new life into every
open heart.

All: Amen

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today
to claim our relationship with you.
We pray for the commitment to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give us with others
here and in the wider world.
Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.
Give us strength and discipline
to nurture our relationship with you;
to care for every part of your creation;
to foster justice and be in solidarity with
those in need;
to work to end all war, and violence, and
discord;

of the world you created us to inhabit.

People: We give thanks for the wonder
of our human sisters and brothers,
and ourselves,
whom you knitted together
in our mothers' wombs.

Leader 2: We give thanks for the power of the Holy
Spirit
that sees our frailty
and calls us back
when we turn away from you.

People: We give thanks for your son, Jesus,
who shows us your hope
for this flawed and hurting world.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of
life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
 You who come to me shall never hunger,
 You who believe in me shall never
thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,
 and after giving thanks to God, broke it
and said,
 This is my body,
 broken for the healing of the world.
 Whenever you eat it, do so remembering
me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,
 This is the cup of the new covenant,
 poured out for you and for all.
 Whenever you drink it, do so
remembering me.

SHARE THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,
 we give joyful thanks

presence

for your eternal love and healing

in our celebration of bread and cup.

Bless this body of Christ

that we may attend faithfully

to our call to be your servants,

with each other and throughout the
world.

Amen.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: This magnificent, flawed world is waiting
for us,

inviting us to see with open eyes.

Go with the hope and promise

of God's sustaining love.

All: Amen.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Reflection: Ted Loder, *So magnificent...so flawed* from *Wrestling the Light: Ache and Awe in the Human-Divine Struggle*, pg. 10

Bulletin Cover Image:

All Around the Carpenter's Shop

© 1996 Ginger Henry Geyer
glazed porcelain with platinum and gold
4 parts, 11" x 6" x 6"

The piece includes adaptations of (1) Robert Campin, St. Joseph's wing panel from the Merode Altarpiece, c. 1425, (2) a 15th c. Spanish manuscript illustration of The Holy Family in Joseph's Workshop, (3) Rembrandt, Holy Family with Angels, 1645, (4) John Everett Millais, Christ in the Carpenter's Shop, 1849-50, (5) Holman Hunt, The Shadow of Death, 1870-3.

Ginger says:

“The tendency of Christians to “keep Jesus in a box” is a recurring theme in my art. Jesus as a Jack-in-the-Box is startling—for this is not Jesus. This clown has a turning head with a choice of faces; it is not so much the Trinity as three stereotypical Christ images: (1) The fierce judge, the Pantocrater, full of smite (2) the bloody, beaten to a pulp Man of Sorrows, and (3) Sweet Jesus Gentle and Mild, a blue-eyed blonde who is ineffectual and indifferent. Turn his head, cram him back into the box, and crank him up in whichever way you want him to appear...need a Jesus to damn somebody you disapprove of? Or one who will come to your self-pity party? Or one who assures you that everything is OK?”