



## **Worship Service for May 5, 2024**

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Paula McKnight
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Felix Carrión
<b>Praise &amp; Worship Songs</b>	Congregation

### **“God Will See Us Through”**

In times of brokenness,  
in ev'ry wilderness,  
God has seen us through.

Times when our strength was gone,  
somehow we carried on,  
God has seen us through.

Look behind and see  
throughout history,  
God has never let us down.

Lean ahead and trust,  
God is guiding us,  
God is with us here right now.

God will see me through,  
God will see you through,  
God will see us through somehow.

Step by step we'll be  
given all we need  
God will see us through this now.

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in ev'ry wilderness,  
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Step by step we'll be  
given all we need  
God will see us through this now.  
God will see us through this now.

## **Announcements**

Paula McKnight

## **Call to Worship**

Paula McKnight

LEADER: No matter who you are or where you are on  
life's journey, you are invited and included here today  
to be loved and accepted as you are.

**ALL: We will let the sound of God's welcome  
be heard in the heart of every one of us.**

LEADER: Somehow, despite all the pitfalls along the  
way, all the trials and tribulations in each of our  
lives, God has kept watch over us.

**ALL: We have been confined and burdened;  
we have walked through fire and water;  
we have been mightily tested, but we  
have not been overcome.**

LEADER: We are heard because in our hearts we  
embrace and cherish and speak the truth of our  
lives.

**ALL: God hears us all and continues to love  
us with a steadfast and undying love.**

**\*Hymn**

Congregation

TNCH #179 "We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness"

We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness  
and for your healing touch;  
too long have we felt helpless;  
our burdens seemed too much.  
Forgetting all pretenses  
we make our pleadings heard,  
in hope and expectation  
await your gracious Word.

We long to have companions  
who travel by our side,  
strong friends to call and answer  
with whom we are allied;  
As we lift up each other  
when struggles lay us low,  
community develops;  
our faith and caring grow.

We need your living presence,  
O Christ of Galilee,  
a presence that revives us  
and sets our spirits free.  
No longer are we fearful,  
your love pervades each place.  
Empower us with courage  
to claim your healing grace.

**Gathering Prayer**

Congregation

**ALL: Holy One, be with us in this sacred space. Stir your Spirit in and among us as we offer ourselves to you. We long to hear more than our own fearful groaning. From the places deep within us, may your Spirit intercede for us. May we recognize you in ourselves and in our neighbors. Let us see you through all brokenness that we may find wholeness in being your holy body here and now. Create in us a tenderness to the needs of all, an openness to everyone's gifts, and a commitment to the journey of healing and wholeness. We offer this prayer in the name of love and truth.**

**Amen.**

**Invitation to Offering**

Paula McKnight

Nation Alliance On Mental Illness (NAMI)

**Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

**\*Doxology**

Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God for all that Love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

Paula McKnight

**ALL: Holy One, you have given us the gift of love so that we might all know the truth of our precious lives. Everything we have been given has the purpose of shaping us to be of one heart and mind, and so we offer what we have to you. Bless these gifts as we bring them, that we all might reveal the truth of the handiwork of God in our lives.**

**Amen.**

**Biblical Witness**

Paula McKnight

Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, 'Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!' Then Jesus said to him, 'Someone gave a great dinner



and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come." So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." And the slave said, "Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room." Then the master said to the slave, "Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner." '

## Contemporary Witness

Pastor Felix Carrión

### My Body Is Not a Prayer Request: Disability Justice in the Church by Amy Kenny

But I know this scriptural application won't make a difference to this man, who had the audacity to come to this conference on "ableism in the church" only to dismiss it as trivial because he's never heard of ableism before now. "This isn't the gospel," he definitively announces, "so we shouldn't get distracted. Where does the Bible say we should care about the disabled people?"

"Luke 14, I want to reply, but I know this question is rhetorical, with a side of sass. People often hide behind the slippery slope argument when asked to consider a perspective different from their own. The lurking fear of slippery slopes governs the public space. If this, then what? As though we'll descend into chaos if we are the least bit more inclusive.

**Reflection**

Pastor Felix Carrión

“There Is Still Room”

**Special Music**

Marshall Davies

“Lean On My Ample Arm”

“More Holiness Give Me”

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**Jesus’ Prayer**

Congregation

The New Zealand Book of Prayer

**ALL: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer,  
Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in  
whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name  
echoes through the universe! The way of your  
justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustains our hope and comes on earth. With the**

**bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen**

**Invitation to Communion**

Pastor Felix Carrión

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Cup

Sharing the Elements

**Communion Music**

Plymouth Choir

“In Remembrance”

In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God’s own will is done.

In remembrance of me, heal the sick.

In remembrance of me, feed the poor.

In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in, let him in.

Take, eat, and be comforted; drink, and remember too, that this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, look in your heart,

look in your heart,

look in your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Do this in remembrance of me.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Congregation

**ALL: O God, we have come to this table with open hearts. You fed and nourished our bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits. We rise from this table to be**

**our true selves, to be empowered, and to be  
present to each other with love and care. Amen.**

**\*Congregational Song**

Congregation

Sing! #75 "Banner of Hope"

Hastening down the morning,  
floating on the breath of day,  
holding out dawn's promise to the world.  
Beyond any sensible warning,  
joy finds a place to stay.  
Hope flies like a banner unfurled.

Hastening down the morning,  
coming forth without delay,  
op'ning up tomorrow for God's Word.  
Despite all the bitterness, scorning,  
grace finds a place to stay.  
Hope flies like a banner unfurled.

Hastening down the morning,

spiriting the fear away,  
blessings dance as true hope is restored.  
Love grows from the ashes of sorrow,  
faith finds a place to stay.  
Hope flies like a banner unfurled.

**Benediction**

Pastor Felix Carrión

**Song of Parting**

Congregation

Sing! #187 “Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You.

God, empower me to be a witness for you,  
Acting boldly, in your name;  
Seeking justice, where there is hurting  
Off'ring hope where there is pain.

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You.

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies

### **Today's Worship Participants**

Worship Leader: Paula McKnight

Video: Amie Friday

Projector: Cathy Normand

Sound: Cii-jayy

YouTube Host: Mary Lowell

**Pastor Felix Carrión**

**Designated Pastor**

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