



## Worship Service for January 23, 2022

<b>Prelude</b>	Marshall Davies
<b>Chiming of the Hour</b>	Paula McKnight
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Mak
<b>Centering Moment</b>	Pastor Mak
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Paula McKnight

LEADER: This month we mark a new beginning.

**ALL: We set our minds and spirits on you, O God.**

LEADER: We are the work of your hands, your spirit, and your love.

**ALL: Help us to leave behind the failures and flaws of the past year.**

LEADER: Loosen our grip on the past so that we can be free in your love.

**ALL: You are God.**

LEADER: We trust you to be our strength.

**ALL: We worship you in spirit, in hope, and in love.**

**Kidz Korner**

Pastor Mak

**Hymn**

Marshall Davies

Sing! # 168 "Because Of Who You Are"

**Biblical Witness**

Paula McKnight

The Gospel Of Mark 1:35 – 39

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found Jesus, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**Contemporary Witness**

Pastor Mak

Forward by Rachel Held Evans (excerpt) of

"We Believe in Mystery: Raising Kids in Faith"

by Rev. Traci Smith

“So we know what we don’t want to teach him about God,” I said to my husband, Dan, as I collapsed onto the park bench, rubbing my pregnant belly. “But we haven’t decided what we do want to teach him.”

It was quiet between us for a moment, save for my labored breathing. A mile around our favorite walking track wasn’t as easy as it used to be, but then neither was anything else in those days leading up to and following our first baby’s birth.

Dan and I were both raised in loving, grace-filled homes, but in a fundamentalist religious culture that required total acquiescence to a strict set of theological beliefs and left little room for mystery. After years of doubt and deconstruction, we’d made peace with the meandering nature of our own faith journeys, but raising our little boy to do the same seemed daunting. We had no models for that, no roadmap. We knew what teachings we wanted to avoid, but were flummoxed about what to present as an alternative.

“Well I guess it’s like everything else with parenting,” Dan finally said. “We’ll just have to figure it out as we go.”

**Reflection** “Confessions and Proclamations” Pastor Mak

**Special Music** Plymouth Choir  
“Open Hearts, Open Doors”

**Pastoral Prayer** Pastor Mak

**Unison Prayer** Pastor Mak  
**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done, let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days – come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy. Forever your name is All in One.**

**Invitation to Offering** Paula McKnight

**Offertory Music**

Marshall Davies

**Doxology**

Marshall Davies

**Offertory Prayer**

Paula McKnight

LEADER: Holy One, you watch over our coming and our going.

**ALL: Sometimes we live in chaos. Sometimes in calm.**

LEADER: You walk with us always, in all circumstances.

**ALL: As a church we desire to walk with others in all their circumstances.**

LEADER: We bless this offering now as one way to do that.

**ALL: May the time, talent, and treasure represented here be the first steps to sharing our abundant love.**

**Hymn**

Marshall Davies

TNCH #436 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

**Benediction**

Pastor Mak

**Postlude**

Marshall Davies