

Order of Worship

The APCE Annual Event, St. Louis, Missouri
Friday, January 26, 2024

Gathering Music

Call to Worship

“Famous” by Naomi Shihab Nye

The river is famous to the fish.

The loud voice is famous to silence,
which knew it would inherit the earth
before anybody said so.

The cat sleeping on the fence is famous to the birds
watching him from the birdhouse.

The tear is famous, briefly, to the cheek.

The idea you carry close to your bosom
is famous to your bosom.

The boot is famous to the earth,
more famous than the dress shoe,
which is famous only to floors.

The bent photograph is famous to the one who carries it
and not at all famous to the one who is pictured.

I want to be famous to shuffling men
who smile while crossing streets,
sticky children in grocery lines,
famous to them as one who smiled back.

**I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do.**

Music

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (adapted from *Liturgies from Below*)

**Gracious God,
You offer us living water,
 your own self poured out for us,
 to satisfy our every thirst.
Yet we drink from shallow pools,
 refusing the deep wells of your grace.
We drink bitter water,
 and place blame, rather than take responsibility.
We drink in tiny sips,
 thinking your abundance is not for us.
We drink in giant gulps,
 afraid of sharing what was never really ours to begin with.
Merciful God,
 guide us to the place of your overflowing mercy and grace,
 that we might dive into your love yet again. (Silent prayer)**

Assurance of God's Grace

Sharing the Peace of Christ

**May the peace and kindness of Christ be with you!
And also with you!**

Musical Response

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

**Holy Spirit,
Come like fresh morning dew,
like rain after a drought,
like a river running through our lives.
We are thirsty – thirsty for you.
May your Word drench us in new understanding
and wash us in your grace.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading - John 4

Sermon

Rev. Stephanie Doeschot and Rev. Phil Doeschot

Music

Celebration of Baptism

Offering You can use this QR code or the one on your table to give



Music

Benediction