

Coming Out of Exile:

The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered journey ...

November 26 - 30

Worship Materials

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We are offering the bulletins for this week's worship services published as a whole in the hope that they will become an important part of your daily, personal devotions this week.

In order to keep production costs to a minimum, we are asking that you bring this worship book with you each time you attend worship.

Thank you!

We, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered community of Lancaster Theological Seminary invite you to join us in worship this week as together we all offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to the worship of God.

We come to this week of worship, as indeed we come to every day of our lives, fully aware of the fact that many individuals and denominations do not recognize our worthiness to this calling.

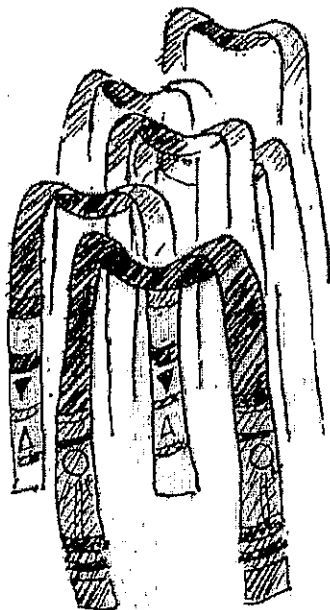
For us, however, this week represents both an eschatological vision and a dream for our day-to-day lives. It is our hope that as we journey together through this week of worship and education, we might move ever closer to making these visions and dreams reality for our community and our world.

It is our sincere desire that wherever you are in your struggle with these issues, you are able to feel free to participate fully in our common vision of the Kingdom of God where there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, only oneness in Christ.

The GLBT Community of Lancaster Theological Seminary

shower of stoles project™

During this week-long celebration - **Coming Out of Exile: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Journey** - Santee Chapel is decorated with a number of stoles from the Shower of Stoles Project™.



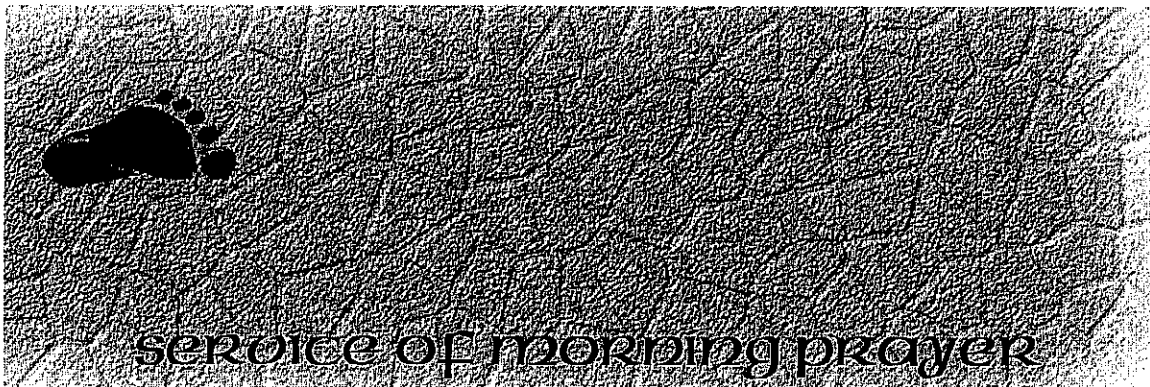
The Shower of Stoles is a collection of hundreds of liturgical stoles from gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people of faith from all over North America, from Canada to Cuba, Alaska to Hawaii. The individuals represented by these stoles are active leaders in their faith communities -- ordained ministers, elders, deacons, seminarians, church musicians, missionaries, and other gifted people -- who have been barred from serving their faith community because of their sexual orientation. This collection was created as a witness to give a voice to these faithful people, many of whom have been forced to choose between serving in silence or losing their livelihood.

The Shower of Stoles was first displayed in full at the 1996 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These stoles quickly became a powerful symbol of the huge loss to the church of gifted leadership. Since that time the Project has become broadly ecumenical; the collection now contains stoles from Methodist, Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, Metropolitan Community Church, Presbyterian Church of Cuba, and United Church of Canada members as well.

Each stole that is displayed represents the life story of a GLBT person of faith who, in some way or another, has been exiled from the church s/he feels called to serve. We invite you to spend time viewing the Shower of Stoles display and allowing these stories to inform your reflections this week. Please return to Santee chapel at a time other than the specified worship times so that you might take advantage of this powerful witness.

You can obtain more information about the Shower of Stoles Project™, including information about how to donate a stole to the project, by contacting them directly:

Shower of Stoles Project
57 Upton Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
www.showerofstoles.org



Monday, November 26, 2001

Santee Chapel

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

It is fitting that the first step we take together on the journey through this week of worship is a step taken in prayer. In prayer, we move away from self-centeredness and isolation into dynamic relationship with the Sacred and with the sacred power that draws us together as people of faith; we focus not on what makes us different from one another, but on what unites us – our common need for God's love and grace. It is only from this common starting point that we can begin to journey with those whose differences we seek to understand. Let us begin by breathing in deeply the Spirit of God, whose movement we trust to open us more fully to the Sacred presence among us. May each of us bring ourselves fully here, into a time of openness to God, that our prayers may truly be a time of meditation and preparation for the journey ahead.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are called to love one another.

P: **We are called to support one another.**

L: We are called to be non-judgmental.

P: **We are called to do no harm.**

L: We are called to open our hearts.

P: **We are called to open our minds.**

L: We are called to hurt with those hurting.

P: **We are called to cry with those who shed tears.**

L: We are called to listen to the voice of God.

P: **We are called to listen to the voices of God's children.**

L: Let us now open our ears, our hearts and our minds.

P: **Let us hear what God is saying to us, feel God's love, and be aware of God's presence in this place.**

***HYMN**

"We are your people"

PH #436

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison

Most merciful God,

We confess that in our desire to fulfill our own needs,
we have forgotten about the needs of others.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed
by our apathy toward others and by our mistreatment of the world in which
we live.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us
so that we may delight in your will and follow your ways.

Help us to seek to love and understand others
in the way that you love and understand us.

Help us to do these things in order
to bring honor to your holy name. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ,

God knows and receives each of us as we are.

Listen, give thanks, and live.

LESSONS

Scripture Reading

Psalm 88

Reading

"Inside and Out"

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139: 1-18

NAMING OUR HOPES AND FEARS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN**

"Hope of the World"

PH #360

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Go forth into the world to serve God.

Be a beacon of God's love to all.

Hold fast to that which is good.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

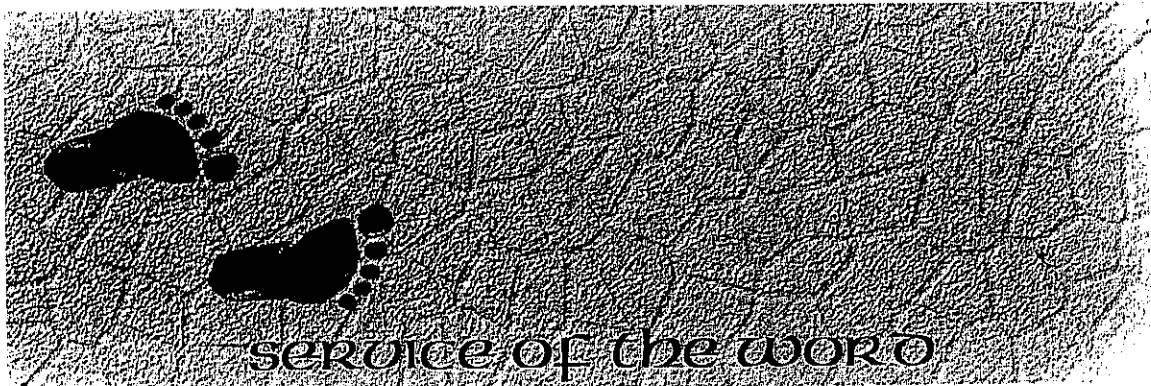
Help the afflicted.

Honor all people.

Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen



Tuesday, November 27, 2001

Santee Chapel

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

We began our journey together focusing on that which we share in common: our need for God's grace and love. Today, we remember the unity that comes through our shared experiences, while at the same time we actively listen to those whose experiences may differ from ours. As we take this tentative step along the journey, let us pause for a moment and bring ourselves with loving awareness fully here, into this sacred time of worship.

God, I do not ask for your presence in this place, rather I acknowledge it. Help me be open to the movement of your Spirit, to the ways in which you will both nurture and challenge me during this time. May the pulse of your spirit, the rhythm of your life-giving love, resonate within me. It is my desire to worship you in Spirit and in Truth this day. Move me out of my own way that I may do just that. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Kakilambe"

Drummers

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 23:1-6

RESPONSE

One: Always it is easier to pay homage to prophets than to heed the direction of their vision.

Many: It is easier blindly to venerate the saints than to learn the human quality of their sainthood.

One: It is easier to glorify the heroes of the race than

Many: To give weight to their examples.

One: To worship the wise is much easier than to profit by their wisdom.

Many: Great leaders are honored, not by adulation, but by sharing their insights and values.

One: Grandchildren of those who stoned the prophet sometimes gather up the stones to build the prophet's monument.

Many: Always it is easier to pay homage to prophets than to heed the direction of their vision.

CONTEMPORARY READING

a selection from "Beloved" by Toni Morrison (1987)

REFLECTION

Kharma Amos

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

"Sing Out Praises for the Journey"

Worship Book p. 16

PRAYERS OF HOPE

You are invited to light a candle and share a brief hope.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"One Light through Many Windows"

Worship Book p. 17

BENEDICTION

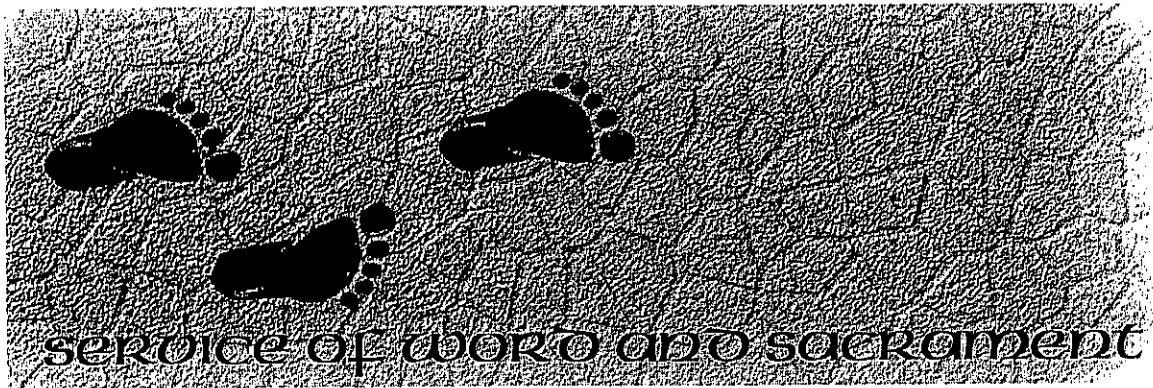
One: Our pilgrimage together is not complete. Even now, the Spirit urges us to continue on our common journey, seeking always God's shalom for all people. Leave this place ready to be attentive to the cries of those who have been scattered. Gather up the remnant of God's children who remain in exile and be at peace with one another and with God.

ALL: So Be It!

SENDING FORTH

"Kakilambe" Reprise

Drummers



Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Santee Chapel

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

Another day, another step along the journey. Sacred Friend, sometimes it seems as if my entire life is one long, tired journey. Those who walk beside me often seem like strangers. I'm uncertain where my path will lead and in the face of so much change in the world, I long for something comfortable, something known. I long for a place where I can come and be still, knowing that somehow in all of this, you are God. So I come once again to your sacred table. Just as you were made known to those who traveled the Emmaus Journey through the breaking of the bread, so you are made known in this place as we break bread and share wine with our fellow travelers. As the darkness in this chapel gives way to light, may the truth of your Light abound in me. Even as I remember and give thanks for your past faithfulness and steadfast love, help me be open to a new encounter with you. In the Spirit of Christ, my grace and my peace, I pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Drumming & Sacred Dance

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

***OPENING HYMN**

"Now Bless the God of Israel"

NCH # 110

LITANY OF INTERCESSION

NCH # 878

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Luke 1:69-79

Colossians 1:11-20

SERMON

"A Father's Journey from Confusion to Pride"

Rev. Dr. Randolph T. Riggs

CHORAL ANTHEM

"People of God"

LTS Community Choir

Words & Music by David M. Glasgow

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

CELEBRANT #1: Our God is here.

PEOPLE: **God's Spirit is with us.**

CELEBRANT #1: Unlock the doors of your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We open them to God and to one another.**

CELEBRANT #1: We have come to meet God, our Friend and our Lover.

PEOPLE: **It is good to love God, now and always.**

CELEBRANT #2: It is good to live as lovers of God with brothers and sisters in all times and places. Therefore, with those who befriended and fed you, who argued with you and touched you, who got angry with you and saw your face, who ran away from you only to meet you on their path, we praise you saying:

ALL: Holy, holy, vulnerable God, God of love and joy, heaven and earth are full of your blessing; stay with us always. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God, who makes our hearts glad.

CELEBRANT #1: God of the powerless, the oppressed, the unusual, we praise you for your special love for those who somehow don't fit in. Your Spirit calmed the storm-tossed deep, Your Word shaped chaos into a world, which you called GOOD. You formed your people Israel from refugees and slaves, turned nobodies into somebodies, by giving them your family name. You taught us survival in wilderness places, fed us with unknown manna, quenched our thirst with water from the rock, over and over showed yourself entirely trustworthy, yet full of surprises.

CELEBRANT #2: You brought us into the land you had prepared for us, to be a holy community with room for everyone to grow and stretch, create and love to the praise of your name. Your fatherly guidance, motherly teaching, were to welcome exiles and strangers, to care for the weak and poor, to visit the sick and elderly, all a trademark of your love. But we forgot that we were slaves in Egypt. We demanded to be like other nations, to organize the world for our convenience, to lord it over the have-nots, to reject the defective and the different as unclean.

CELEBRANT #1: Time and again, your warning prophets were rejected as traitors. In exile and hardship you got our attention, but we always went home to shut others out. Yet our resistance could never defeat your dream.

You came among us as outcast, illegitimate, exiled. You touched lepers and bleeding women, ate with tax collectors, recruited prostitutes, healed the tormented, taught the hopeless, picked unstable and unlikely disciples, welcomed North and South, East and West to the marriage feast of the Lamb.

And then on the night before you died for us, you took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to your friends, saying: Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper, you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; This is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for everyone for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Yearning to please you, O God: We remember your death for us, your friends. We shout your resurrection, our bold new life. Come, sweet Jesus, embrace us face to face.

And we set the table with gifts from our world, this bread and this wine, our brothers and sisters who live and die with AIDS, our disappointments and failures, the harms we have suffered and the grief we have caused.

CELEBRANT #2: By your Holy Spirit may they become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, your body and blood, that we may love as your body in the world.

Remember your holy family, and especially this community: its founders who sounded your praise when others were silent; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons giving birth to new identities; church-damaged, excluded, and unusual people, seeking the power of your kiss, the strength of your love.

Bind us together with all your saints past and yet to come; send us out to help others recognize themselves as your children; transform your church, our city and planet, into wholesome community, as wide and deep as your love. Amen.

SONG OF INVITATION
"One Bread, One Body"

LTS Community Choir & Sacred Dancers
Michael Hegeman, Flutist

Following the invitation, you are invited to come forward to the altar to partake of the elements. Please dip the bread into the chalice on the pulpit side containing wine or the chalice on the lectern side containing grape juice. Please then return to your seat for prayer and reflection. If you are unable to come forward to the altar, please inform one of the celebrants.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Unison

Holy One, since in this place, at this altar, with this gathered community, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this place filled with love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. Strengthen us and grant us courage that we might go forth helping your universal church become a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"We Are the Church Alive"

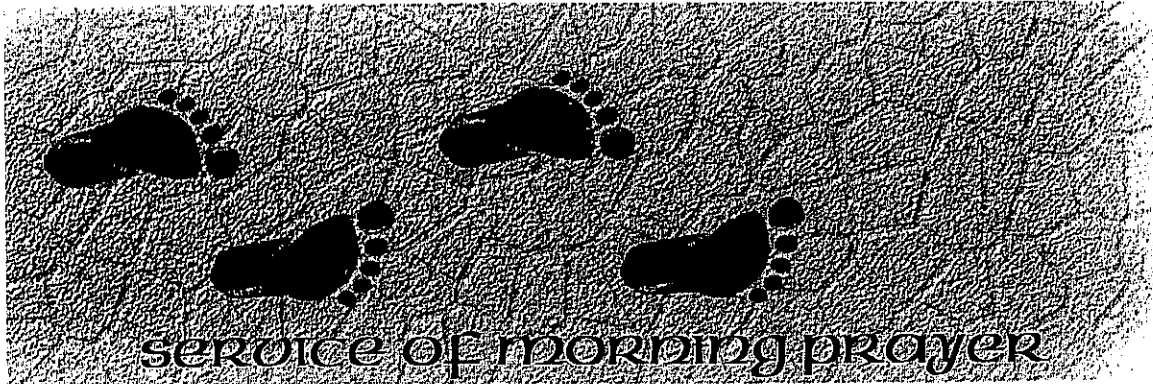
Worship Book p. 18

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Aconcon"

Drummers



Friday, November 30, 2001

Santee Chapel

CENTERING FOR WORSHIP

Just as it was fitting that we began our journey through this week of worship with a prayerful step out, so it is fitting that this final step is one taken in prayer. Our prayers this day once again challenge us to move beyond self-centeredness and isolation and to honor our connection with God and the sacred power that binds us together in the unity of Christ. In prayer, we admit our limitations and the ways in which we need God and one another. The journey we have taken this week, as any journey honestly undertaken, has likely changed us. When we are open to the Spirit of God and to the witness of those whose experiences are different than our own, we grow in wisdom. Even as the journey we have taken this week is ending, we are reminded that our Faith Journey is not over. This morning, as we breathe in deeply the Spirit of God, our wisdom and inspiration, may our time of prayer once again serve as meditation and preparation for the journey ahead. Thankful for the faithfulness of God in the past, may we step out further in the hopes that there will truly be a time of homecoming for all of God's people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are called to respect our community.

P: We are called to respect each individual.

L: We are called to accept people as they are.

P: We are called to love one another as Christ loves us.

L: We are called to support those who struggle.

P: We are called to offer strength those who are weak.

L: We are called to share love without limits.

P: We are called to show mercy without boundaries.

L: We are called to seek God even in times of exile.

P: We are called to find God in the most unpredictable places.

L: Let us now open our eyes to see God in this place.

P: Let us now feel God's love and be willing to share that love with others.

***HYMN**

"We are your people"

NCH #309

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Unison

Most merciful God

We confess that we have not always listened to your voice.

We have failed to follow your commands.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have come short of your expectations of us.

We have not tried to find the good within ourselves.

We have not tried to find the good within others.

Forgive us, renew us, and restore us,

so that we may do your will in the world.

Help us to be a light in the darkness

so that we may lead others to your heavenly light.

Help us to do these things in order

to bring glory and honor to your holy name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In Jesus Christ,

God hears and accepts our pleas for forgiveness.

Love God, give thanks, and live.

LESSONS

Scripture Reading

Psalm 116

Reading

"Outside and In"

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-39

RENAMING OUR HOPES AND FEARS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN**

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NCH #391

COMMISSIONING

Psalm 133

BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the peace that passes all understanding go with you as you leave this place.
May you feel God's presence beside you on your journey.
May you share God's love with others and be witnesses to God's grace. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

WORSHIP RESOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE LITURGIES

Equal Rites: Lesbian and Gay Worship, Ceremonies, and Celebrations. Eds.

Kittredge Cherry & Zalmon Sherwood

The Hymnal Project of MCC San Francisco

The New Century Hymnal (NCH)

The Presbyterian Hymnal (PH)

Singing the Living Tradition, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Hymnal

Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Eds. Ruth Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi

The United Methodist Hymnal (UMC Hymnal)

***WE WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED
IN WORSHIP SERVICES THIS WEEK.***

GUEST PREACHER

Rev. Dr. Randolph T. Riggs

WORSHIP PLANNING

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Daryl Hollinger

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Leslie Foley

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