

Welcome to

First Mennonite Church

Denver, CO



January 10, 2021

Mark 1:4-11

*That you may know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

Entering Worship

Welcome

Hamba Nathi (Come, Walk with Us)

Sing the Journey 2

- Zulu* Hamba nathi mkululu wethu.
Hamba nathi mkululu wethu. (x2)
Mkululu, mkululu, mkululu wethu,
Mkululu, mkululu, mkululu wethu (x2)
- Vs 1* Come, walk with us, the journey is long.
Come, walk with us, the journey is long. (x2)
The journey, the journey, the journey is long.
The journey, the journey, the journey is long. (x2)
- Vs 2* Share our burden, and join in the song
- Vs 3* Come, uplift us and bring us new life
- Vs 4* Give us peace when the journey is done

Text: South African traditional, translated by Gehard Cartford; ©Lutheran World Foundation
Music: South African traditional, arranged by Anders Nyberg; ©1984 Utryck; admin. Walton Music Corp.
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Children's Time

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (HWB 439)

- Vs 1* I want Jesus to walk with me.
I want Jesus to walk with me.
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- Vs 2* In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me.
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- Vs 3* When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me.

When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text & Music: African-American Spiritual; Public Domain

Announcements & Passing the Peace

Call to Worship

Sometimes we feel unworthy,

Sometimes we feel we don't belong.

Sometimes we feel unlovable,

Sometimes we feel we are not good enough.

And you whisper to us, as you cradle us in your loving arms,

"You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Invocation

Faith Reflection

Chimes

Scripture

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Child, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

STJ 95

Vs 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Vs 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.

Vs 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

Text & Music: Kathleen Thomerson

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Meditation

God of the Bible

STJ 27

Vs 1 God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our center, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Vs 2 God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part,
Still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Vs 3 Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights.

Vs 4 Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day,
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Vs 5 Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other,
Till our world changes facing the cross.

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Music: Tony E Alonso; ©2001 GIA Publications Inc
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Chimes

Community & Sharing

Offering

Prayer of the church

Adapted from Rick Morley's prayer, found at www.rickmorley.com/archives/1355

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come";
empower your Church, O God,
to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus,
which pierces even the deepest darkness.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky
to draw the nations to the Christ-child;
send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation,
and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness
and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan,
we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders
to the ways of justice and righteousness.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Like the Magi who traveled from afar
to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth;
we pray for this community,
and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries;
Especially Steve Popp(50th) and Carol Harguth (80th).
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop,
and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world;
we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the powerless.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him;
we pray for those we love and who have answered your call
to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Light of the World,
hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light,
that the places of deep shadows in our world would be pierced by your
Light,
and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy.
Amen.

The Peace of the Earth be with You

STJ 77

The peace of the earth be with you,
The peace of the heavens too;
The peace of the rivers be with you,
The peace of the oceans too.
Deep peace falling over you.
God's peace growing in you.

Text: Guatemalan traditional; translated by Christine Carson
Music: Guatemalan folk melody; Public Domain

Benediction

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## **Leadership for this Service**

**Worship Leaders:** Claudia Aguilar and Brad and Marylou Shelly

**Music Coordinator:** Emily Martin

**Musicians:** Romaine Anderson, Emily Martin, Moses Martin

**Children's Time:** Claudia Aguilar

**Sanctuary Arts:** Roberta Kandel and Paul Johnson

**Cover Art:** "God's Promise" by Erin Wentorf

**Video Editing:** Claudia Aguilar

*Thanks to all who generously shared their attention and talents to make this service a time of encouragement and challenge in our walk of faith.*

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Giving

Checks: Write a check to FMC and mail to 430 W 9th Ave, Denver CO 80204.

Online: Go to www.fmcdenver.org/giving. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring contribution by credit/debit card or through a direct withdrawal from your checking account.

Grocery Cards/SCRIP: If you would like to purchase grocery cards, send a check to FMC with a note listing which store's cards you would like (Natural Grocers, Sprouts, or Safeway). Remember, cards are \$50 each. Marie will mail the grocery cards to you.

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