



“Gone Up With a Shout: Clap Your Hands” Seventh Sunday of Easter (Ascension Sunday)

Galena UMC May 16, 2021

Prelude: *Open My Eyes That I May See* UMH #454

Welcome: Pastor Catiana

Song of Preparation: “Open The Eyes of My Heart Lord”
W&S 3008 WORDS/MUSIC: Paul Baloche. 1997, 2010

GATHERING OUR STRENGTH

Threshold

Leader: As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for continually worshipping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the “eyes of OUR hearts are enlightened?” We know the hope that we have been called to. As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song, Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long, Dare to dance again!**

Leader: Dancing changes us: it transforms us and brings us to life, awakens our senses. Imagine the dreams and the heartbeat and the life stirring in Jesus and his disciples as he readied them for this next chapter of ministry.

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This is the call! Ready yourselves for new life.

People: We lift up our heads to meet the day.

Get ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

Even when rain sets in, open those umbrellas of gratitude and set out anyway.

For we are called to dance again!

Opening Song of Praise: *Come Children, Join to Sing* by Jim & Jean Strathdee

Prayer

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation – Help us to put on our dancing shoes
so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –
so that we can be risen with Christ and in Christ. Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Affirming the Peace Among Us

The peace of the risen Christ is with you!

And also with you!

You are invited to turn to the people around you and wave as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

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Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.**

Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long, Dare to dance again!

LEARNING THE STEPS

A Story for All Ages (Children's Time) Julia Eggleston

This week's dreamer: Jesus

Every week we've been talking about people who had a dream to live out. It might surprise you that this week that dreamer is... Jesus! Jesus had dreams of a better world and a better life for those in his community. You see, even in houses of worship in Jesus' day, some people thought they were better than others. They called some people "unclean" and didn't include women in their community in the same way they included men. But Jesus had a dream! We know this because he reached out to include everyone, especially those who were being treated badly or excluded. He touched sick people and immigrants. He talked with, and made friends with women. All of those things were unheard of! But Jesus had a dream. He called it the "kingdom of God." In the kingdom of God – in the dream of Jesus – neighbors would go out of their way to help others, especially those who were strangers or who were suffering in some way. If somebody was left out, Jesus showed us that we needed to reach out to them. Even though Jesus lived here on earth a long time ago, when he left, he said that we were to be his presence in the world. So we take on his dream.

Our colorful umbrellas are a sign of joy and hope, even on rainy days. Today we'll add a phrase from Jesus' dream on our prayer umbrella: "Welcome to all!"

Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:

"We offer thanks for dreamers true for all they are and all they do

Let us become dreamers too and bring new life to me and you Amen!

A Story for the Ages (Scripture)

Julia Lieb, Liturgist

First Reading: Psalm 47: 1-6 (NRSV, adapted)

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great Sovereign over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our Sovereign, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

Second Reading: Luke 24: 44-53 (NRSV, adapted)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what Abba, God, promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sounds of Resurrection: Easter People, Raise Your Voices **UMH #304**

Witness to the Word

Pastor Catiana

Dancing for All We're Worth

(Video of the Week)

THE BODY MOVES IN RESPONSE

Prayers of the People

“Teach Me to Dance” [refrain only]

Sung: Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

For the beauty of the world in all its diversity, we give you thanks, O God.

We give thanks that we are here together,
We come with praise, celebration, and hope for renewal.
We give thanks for believers everywhere,
for that great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: May our gratitude to you fill our days.

We need your healing, O Holy One, for our troubled planet, for our nation,
for all who are struggling in body, mind, relationships, and spirit.

We remember those who are suffering...

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: Come, O God, and restore our lives.

Sung: Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.

Lead us in your prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Be with each of us now.

May the dance of your Spirit ever call us
to engage with you and with the needs around us.

Lead us; guide us; surround and fill us.

Leader: Let us pray together...

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Sung: Teach me to love with your heart of compassion,
teach me to trust in the word of your promise,
teach me to hope in the day of your coming, teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.

Offering Our Resources and our Energy

Next week is the last week of our Easter Season series, for this season ends with Pentecost, when the flames of the spirit danced within all people. We are so grateful for the ways in which you have continued throughout this difficult time of being separated. You have continued to support and give life and movement to the ministries of this church. You are the hands and feet of Christ now in the world. Let us receive our offering.

Video: Jorene Lieb – Offering & Change for the Better

Video: Dave Decker, Executive Director for ARC

Video: Doxology

STEPPING OUT

Song for Stepping Out *“I Cannot Dance, O Love”*
Familiar tune, AURELIA (“The Church’s One Foundation”)

*I cannot dance, O Love, unless you lead me on. I cannot leap in gladness unless you lift me up.
From love to love we circle, beyond all knowledge grow,
For when you lead we follow, to new worlds you can show.*

*Love is the music 'round us, we glide as birds in air,
entwining, soul and body, your wings hold us with care.
Your Spirit is the harpist and all your children sing;
her hands the currents 'round us, your love the golden strings.*

*O blessed Love, your circling unites us, God and soul.
From the beginning, your arms embrace and make us whole.
Hold us in steps of mercy from which you never part,
that we may know more fully the dances of your heart.*

Benediction

Leader: The poet Rumi invites us with these words...

“Dance, when you’re broken open. Dance, if you’ve torn the bandage off.
Dance in the middle of the fighting. Dance in your blood.
Dance, when you’re perfectly free.”

May it be so as we go in peace.
And may the Loving God, Risen Christ, and Dancing Spirit
fill you with all you need for the days ahead.
And all God’s people said, **“Amen!”**

Postlude

Turning of the World Jim & Jean Strathdee