

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Worship 9:30am

Sunday School 10:50am

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Rosi Penner Kaufman, organist

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Leroy Seat, worship leader

*HYMN #46

I sing the mighty power of God

WE LISTEN, BLESS, AND LEARN

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jan Buerge

CHILD DEDICATION AND BLESSING: Autumn and Odyssey Stoltzfus (see insert)

ANTHEM

Will you hold me in the light

Morris

SCRIPTURE

Litany based on Genesis 1:1-27

Alex Jantzen and Leroy Seat

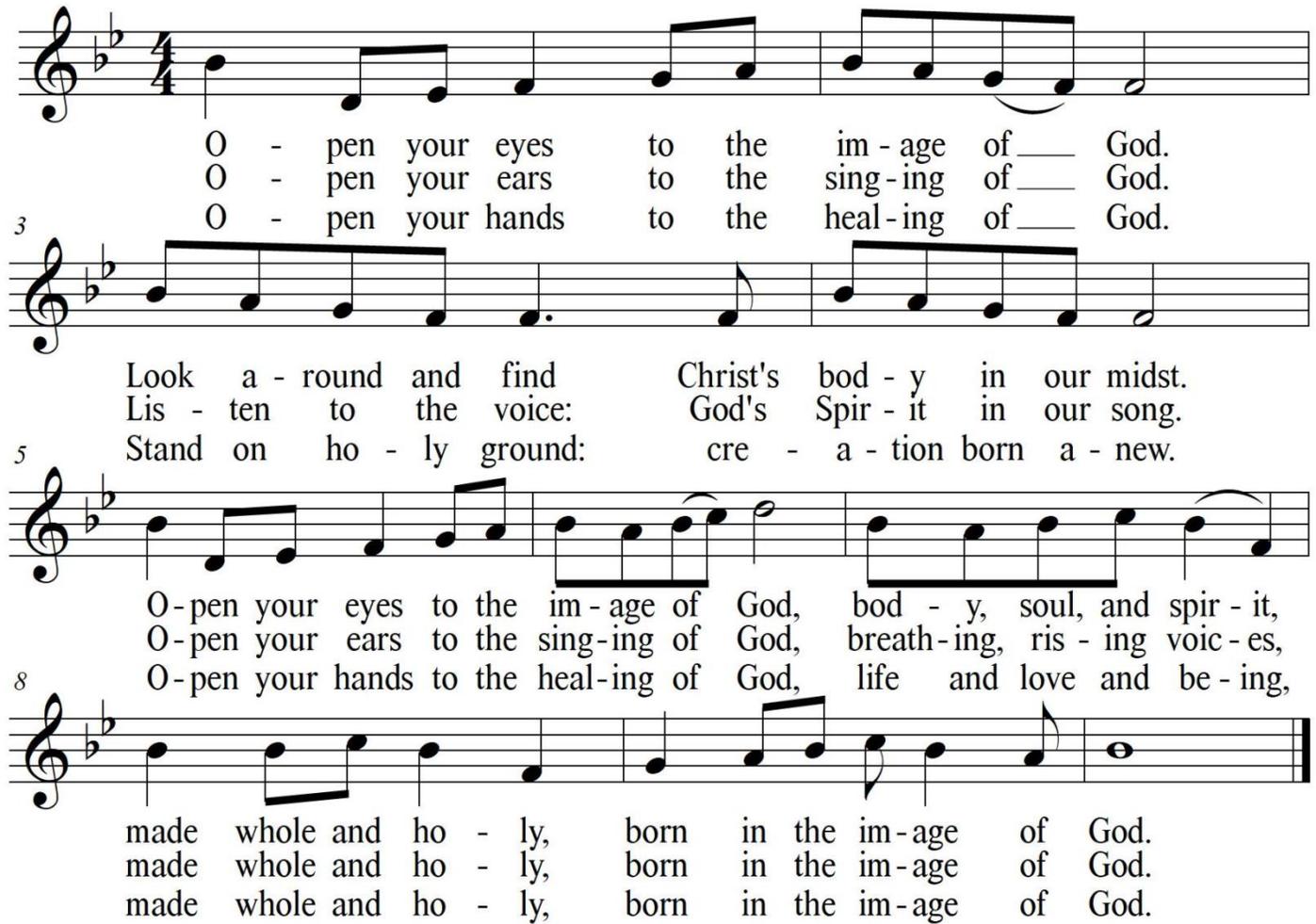
John 1:1-4

SERMON

In Whose Image?

WE BELIEVE each human being is made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). That image and likeness confers a divinely decreed dignity, worth, and God-given equality to all of us as children of the one God who is the Creator of all things. Racial bigotry is a brutal denial of the image of God (the *imago dei*) in some of the children of God. Our participation in the global community of Christ absolutely prevents any toleration of racial bigotry. Racial justice and healing are biblical and theological issues for us, and are central to the mission of the body of Christ in the world. We give thanks for the prophetic role of the historic black churches in America when they have called for a more faithful gospel.

THEREFORE, WE REJECT the resurgence of white nationalism and racism in our nation on many fronts, including the highest levels of political leadership. We, as followers of Jesus, must clearly reject the use of racial bigotry for political gain that we have seen. In the face of such bigotry, silence is complicity. In particular, we reject white supremacy and commit ourselves to help dismantle the systems and structures that perpetuate white preference and advantage. Further, any doctrines or political strategies that use racist resentments, fears, or language must be named as public sin—one that goes back to the foundation of our nation and lingers on. Racial bigotry must be antithetical for those belonging to the body of Christ, because it denies the truth of the gospel we profess.**



O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God.
 O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God.
 O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God.

3
 Look a - round and find Christ's bod - y in our midst.
 Lis - ten to the voice: God's Spir - it in our song.
 Stand on ho - ly ground: cre - a - tion born a - new.

5
 O - pen your eyes to the im - age of God, bod - y, soul, and spir - it,
 O - pen your ears to the sing - ing of God, breath - ing, ris - ing voic - es,
 O - pen your hands to the heal - ing of God, life and love and be - ing,

8
 made whole and ho - ly, born in the im - age of God.
 made whole and ho - ly, born in the im - age of God.
 made whole and ho - ly, born in the im - age of God.

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WE RESPOND AND SHARE

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement in addition to what is in the printed newsnotes, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE



Children in K-5grades are dismissed for WorshipArts (Room 114), a time for children to respond to worship, ask questions, and learn more about the language, ritual, movement, sound and art incorporated in worship.

*SENDING FORTH PRAYER, HYMN AND POSTLUDE

Please remain standing for the closing hymn and postlude.

*HYMN #67 SJ

Let there be light

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated "SJ" are in the green *Sing the Journey* hymnal.

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

**These words are lifted from a longer letter called "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis." (ReclaimingJesus.org) The full, three-page letter was written in Spring of 2018 and signed by over 50 ecumenical faith leaders. Today and in future Sundays, we will consider various sections of this letter as part of our own congregational goal of "fostering a relevant peace church tradition in the 21st century informed by the study of scripture and current societal challenges such as racism, gun violence, immigration and socioeconomic biases and disparities."



Consider
Confront
Change

Here is a place for worship reflections. Consider what you've heard or sensed today. What needs confronting? What change do you yearn for?

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