

From the Church of Steadfast Love, produced by Ballard First Lutheran Church and Participating Congregations of the Northwest WA Synod, ELCA



Prelude

Prelude on the Introit for Epiphany
Maurice Duruflé

Introduction

Rev. Erik Wilson-Weigaard

P: On behalf of Ballard First Lutheran Church, we are thankful for the partnership in the Gospel we share with the Church of Steadfast Love and the other congregations participating in this online service of worship and remembrance. We recall the lives of those who died without a place to call home this past year, as well as those who have befriended and supported them, and we give thanks for the leadership and ministry of our good friend, Pastor Kristy Daniels.

Welcome

Rev. Kristy Daniels

P: Dear friends, thank you for participating in the Service of Remembrance for 2020. It is with sorrow that we come together again to honor our sisters and brothers that have passed away on the streets this year, or as a result of having been homeless. We also include those who have passed away in the programs and residences of Compass Housing Alliance, and those who have been allies and friends. Out of necessity, the service is different this year. I pray that you will find it meaningful and strengthening for our shared work of loving our neighbors, and all that entails.



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." 2 *To stanzas 3 and 4*
 4 "I

Apostolic Greeting

Rev. Elise Scott

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose Mercy is poured out upon all people and whose Goodness cascades over all Creation.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Lesson

Genesis 1:1-5

A: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

A: Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

A: God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Sermon

Fallen Leaves; Of Monuments and Memorials

Pastor Erik Wilson Weiberg

"...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

(1 Peter 2:5)

SCENE ONE (*Among the military monuments at Washelli Cemetery*)

Years ago, living in the other Washington, Washington, D.C., there were stones all around. I couldn't help but notice the many monuments and memorials. They were seemingly everywhere. It got me to wondering:

What's the difference between a monument and a memorial? Why, for example, is it called, "The Washington *Monument*," but "the Vietnam Veteran's *Memorial*?"

The dictionary sure wasn't much help. I read definitions of "monument" and "memorial" but couldn't really discern a difference. I asked longtime D.C. residents. None of them seemed to know.

SCENE TWO (*at the Luther Statue at Pacific Lutheran Cemetery*)

I finally came across an article that put it in a way I could understand: The purpose of a **monument**, it said, is to remind us to "Always remember!" This monument to Martin Luther in this cemetery is a source of comfort to all who come and visit the graves of loved ones, reminding them to always remember God's abundant grace.

SCENE THREE (*among the military monuments at Washelli Cemetery*)

The message of a **memorial** is: "Never forget!"

The distinction is important. This service is no monument to death; it is a rather a memorial for the fallen.

The Washington Monument is at its finest with Fourth of July fireworks. It celebrates the qualities of this nation when we are at our very best: Democracy. Liberty. Justice for all. The monument calls to mind our first president, he who fought so brilliantly against tyranny. And, while he was successful on violent fields of battle, many today suggest that perhaps his greatest victory over tyranny was his ability to surrender power in a peaceful transition. "Democracy! Liberty! Justice! Remember these ideals! Build monuments to them! Celebrate them!" This is what the Washington Monument says.

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, on the other hand, strikes a very different chord. It is a silent, sobering place. It descends into the ground.... like a grave. It is mostly a marble wall with tens of thousands of names. When you look upon the names, you can see your reflection in the marble. "Never

forget the terrible cost of war. Never forget the human suffering it brings. Never forget the death," This is what the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial says. "Never forget that the precious gift of human life is fleeting."

SCENE FOUR (at Kerry Park on Queen Anne Hill)

In Seattle, our Space Needle is a towering monument to human achievement and possibility. Born of a more optimistic time – sixty years ago this year – even the name, "*Space* Needle," suggests that there are new frontiers to be reached in human achievement. "Always remember that we can do better!" this monument says.

SCENE FIVE (among the military monuments at Washelli Cemetery)

But: This Service of Remembrance is very much a **memorial service**. Our purpose is that we *not forget* those who died this past year with no place to call or claim as a physical home. They did not have walls to paint, doors to close, windows to open. So I underscore the point: This *memorial* service implores us to see that they are not forgotten, these people with no lawns to mow, no leaves to rake.

Yes. Leaves. Let us remember the leaves.

SCENE SIX (in the Wilson Weiberg backyard, with a rake)

Have you see the fallen leaves? Have you seen the leaves falling? If, like me, you are privileged to have a home and a yard and trees, then perhaps you're familiar with raking. Although, I don't call it "raking." I call it "going on leaf patrol." It goes kind of like this: you start one side of the house or the other, the front or the back, doesn't really matter. And you spend a couple of hours raking up the leaves, making a full circle – and you come back to where you started. And there's more leaves. It seems like it never ends. Feels like a losing battle. It just can't be won.

SCENE SEVEN (*among the military monuments at Washelli Cemetery*)

Have you see the fallen leaves? Have you seen them falling? The city of Seattle has planted leaves in our neighborhood sidewalks. They are not the kind of leaves you rake. They are bronze leaves embedded in the concrete. They bear the names of people who have died homeless on our streets. They include the person's birth date and death date. "Fallen leaves," they are called.

SCENE EIGHT (*photo of fallen leaf: Reece Manderson; 1985-2019*)

When I come upon them, like these leaves at Ballard Commons, I pause and read the names engraved there. And I am struck by how young they are. Every time, I think the same thought, repeat the same words under my breath. "Too young." People on the streets die too young.

These leaves fall too fast. It is like an invisible, silent holocaust; a losing battle that feels as though it will never be won, will yield no triumphal monuments. Just these memorial leaves, reminding us never to forget. Never forget these fallen children of the Holy One.

SCENE NINE (*Ballard First Lutheran Church Chancel*)

This is a memorial service. Make no mistake. But that is not enough. Memorials commemorate. Monuments celebrate. Somehow, this service must also be a monument – must be monumental. I believe we dishonor this occasion if we *only* grieve those who have died, vowing through bitter tears, yes, never to forget their sorrows, their loneliness, their struggles, their alienation, their want. To be sure, we do that. But I believe it is good and right to *celebrate* the lives of the fallen, too.

To honor them, we also remember their smiles. And we are mindful of the joy they brought to life, the compassion they showed... and the compassion they drew out of us. They loved. They laughed. They celebrated. They watched out for one another. They fashioned communities. They made mistakes. They forgave. They were real, three-dimensional people crafted in

the image of the Creator. They were living, breathing monuments to the Creator. Always remember that.

SCENE TEN (*among the military monuments at Washelli Cemetery*)

Sacred scripture says, “Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house...” Until recently, those words of Saint Peter left me feeling underwhelmed. “Living stones” was not an image that captured my imagination. Who wants to be a living stone? It leaves me a little cold. No thanks, Saint Peter. I’ll take a pass on that one. Unless....

Unless becoming a living stone is how we make today a monumental one. Unless we *become* living stones. We *become* human monuments. We become living monuments of love, monuments to these people who have died. And we do so by always remembering what kind of love brought us to this moment. If a feeling of compassion brought you to this moment, then by all means, be a living, breathing monument to compassion! If a burning desire for justice brought you to this moment, then become a fiery monument to justice. If a sense of loss out of appreciation for a fallen loved one brought you to this moment, then be a monument to that! If a desire for a kinder world brought you to this moment, then be a monument of kindness for all the world to see; God know we need it! If righteous anger at a system that is increasingly dehumanizing brought you to this moment, then be a monument to that. But make sure that righteous anger is an anger whose foundation is love.

This service is virtual. When you become a living monument to love, it gets real. So let’s get real. Let’s get busy loving.

Amen.

Anthem

The Rebel Jesus by Jackson Browne

All the streets are filled with laughter and light
And the music of the season
And the merchants' windows are all bright
With the faces of the children
And the families hurrying to their homes
As the sky darkens and freezes
Will be gathering around their hearths and tables
Giving thanks for God's graces
And the birth of the rebel Jesus

They call him by the "Prince Of Peace"
And they call him by "The Saviour"
And they pray to him upon the sea
And in every bold endeavour
And they fill his churches with their pride and gold
As their faith in him increases
But they've turned the nature that I worship in
From a temple to a robber's den
In the words of the rebel Jesus

We guard our world with locks and guns
And we guard our fine possessions
And once a year when Christmas comes
We give to our relations
And perhaps we give a little to the poor
If the generosity should seize us
But if anyone of us should interfere
In the business of why there are poor
They get the same as the rebel Jesus

But pardon me if I have seemed
To take the tone of judgement

For I've no wish to come between
This day and your enjoyment
In a life of hardship and of earthly toil
There's a need for anything that frees us
So I bid you pleasure and I bid you cheer
From a heathen and a pagan
On the side of the rebel Jesus

Preface to the Litany of Names

- A: Sacred scripture tells us that "the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains...." The word "labor" suggests birth, a beginning. And well it should.
- A: But we come together in this service of remembrance in order to recognize labors that have come to an end.
- A: In so doing, we cannot – we will not – look away from the harsh reality of too much death; too much untimely and unnecessary death.
- A: We recall the labors of those who struggled mightily simply to live through each day.
- A: Even as we grieve their loss, we give thanks for the blessings they carried....
- A: Their courage.
- A: The kindnesses they showed.
- A: Their fighting spirit.
- A: Their defiance in the face of cruelty.
- A: The gratitude they expressed.
- A: The beauty they created.
- A: The love they shared.
- A: We recall the blessings they bestowed and the blessings that they were.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Creator, there are times when we are overcome with groaning, when we are so overwhelmed with loss and grief that words fail us and we do not know how to pray. At such times, we give thanks that your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Bless our groaning and our sighing even as we remember....

Litany of Names

The names of those who have died without homes on our streets in 2020 are read by people from many churches in our Synod and other agencies serving the homeless. Candles are lit in their remembrance.

Hymns during the Litany:

"In a Lowly Manger Born" ELW#718

"Lord of all Hopefulness" ELW#765

"What Child is this" ELW#296

"Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW#379

“King” Tiffany Renfro
Andrew Overstreet
Angel Sanchez-Jiminez
Anthony Clifton “Jordan Cheatim”
Arturo Stuker-Cruz
Austin Krout
Azhane Mitchell
Baby Boy G
Baby Girl B
Baby Girl V
Bennett Reedy
Betty Kautz
Bill Jarboe

Bill Northington
Brandt Stewart
Brett Wheeler
Bryan Bracken
Buford Terwilliger
Charles Johnson, Jr
Charles Lingenfelter
Charles Perry - Friend of the Homeless
Christopher Dailey
Christopher Mann
Christopher Tavai
Christopher Walters
Christopher Willingham

▶ ⏪ 🔊 50:25 / 51:22 ⏩ ⏸ ⚙️ 📺 📱 🗉

Randy Austin
Richard Dolan
Richard Hamilton
Richard Schultz
Robert Kepl
Robyn Goodwin
Roger Page
Ronald Dean Brown
Ronny Lee Dunning
Roy Jimerson
Ryan Fink
Rylee Marks
Sara Pedigo

Scott Shultz
Sean Callahan
Sergio Munar Jr
Shane Lewis
Sharlo Sete
Sheri Gardner
Stephany Burdick
Steve Davis - Friend of the Homeless
Susan Lucente
Susan Taherazer
Tanya Marie Jackson “Krissy”
Teddy Werre
Terry Caver

▶ ⏪ 🔊 50:58 / 51:22 ⏩ ⏸ ⚙️ 📺 📱 🗉

Greg Jones
Heather Thompson
Houston Tobin
Irma Negron
Isaac Chapiro
Isaiah Robison
James Hayes
James Oberhausen
James Perkins
James Salmon
Jason Huteson
Jeffery “Jay” Imbert
John A Connors

John Leyden
John Schlas “Doughboy”
John Zapata - Friend of the Homeless
Jose Guadalupe Gonzalez
Joseph Felicetti
Justin Rojanaparpai
Ken Lyons
Kenneth Lyons
Kenneth McMillan
Kenneth Vinson
Kevin Siciliano
Kevin Urpman
Khanh Huynh

▶ ⏪ 🔊 50:41 / 51:22 ⏩ ⏸ ⚙️ 📺 📱 🗉

Lacresha Bolar	Michael Marshall
Laten Jenkins	Michael Ryan
LeRoy Mason	Michael Stoutemire
Malinda Sue Bordeaux	Mohamed Slassi
Maraela White	Monty Hakola
Mark Cruchon	Nicholas Silva
Mark Oster	Norman Jaffe
Mark Salmons	Paige Conca
Marvin "Chip" Shreve	Patricia Schoener
Matthew Baker	Paul Salaiz
Melissa Speed	Philip Fleming
Michael Haugen	Quynh-Sang Le
Michael Heart	Rahwa Ogbe Keshi Habte

50:49 / 51:22

Christy Hughes	Deborah Lyson
Clayton Yorton - Friend of the Homeless	Donald Fling
Curtis Heaps	Doris Raphael Wilson
Curtis Kundsvig	Douglas Mayhew
Cynthia Cantrill	Edgar Deleon
Daine White	Elissa Lloyd
Damon Dumas	Ella Knapp
Daniel Garl	Eric Jones
Daniel Long	Erin Thomas
Daniel Schaffa	Ernesto Duran
David Monroe	Evie Lovett
David Opbroek	Felicia Jackson
Deborah Harms	Gilford Smith

50:32 / 51:22

Thanh Doan	William "Bill" Jarboe
Thomas E. Jones	William Bissig
Thomas Garold Miller	William Northington
Thomas Hedlund	
Thomas Weaver	
Thomas Williamson	
Todd Bailey	
Todd Graham	
Travis Berge	
Travis Carson	
Troy Crocker	
Truman Bradshaw	
Unidentified Caucasian Man	

51:07 / 51:22

Declaration of Recommitment

A: O God, all people are created in your image.

A: Therefore all people carry holiness within.

A: On the one hand, we stand alone in history, living through a time that is unique and unprecedented.

A: On the other hand, there are others who have gone before us, with whom we hope to one day be reunited, all of us consumed by your transforming love.

A: Keep us ever aware of the world's struggles.

A: And, as long as we breathe the air of this world, fill us with your Spirit. In so doing, open our hearts to all who suffer, particularly those who find themselves left out in the cold.

A: Open our ears to the cries of the poor. Open our eyes to the injustices inflicted upon the oppressed. Open our doors to those without home or hearth.

A: In like manner, O God, make us aware of the joys of life.

A: Open our ears to the symphony of creation. Open our eyes to the beauty that is around us; beauty to be found in the earth, beauty in other people, and beauty within.

A: O God, help us to listen. In listening, stir us to speak words of love. By listening, move us to act in faith.

A: As this new year dawns, we keep remembrance of friends who have gone before us into death in the year so recently passed.

A: May God's spirit of strength, love, and courage stir us to live boldly, united in compassion and hope with God and with one another. Amen.

Invitation to the offering. You are invited to remember your own congregation with your gift, and may also donate to the Church of Steadfast Love. (At Queen Anne Lutheran, you may write your check to QALC, with "Church of Steadfast Love" on the memo line.)

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Elise Scott

P: O God,
receive these gifts as you receive us:
like parents receiving their children, with arms open wide;
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

(see next page)

We Are All One in Mission

ELW 576

Benediction

Rev. Kristy Daniels

P: The Lord bless you, and defend you from all evil, and bring you to
everlasting life, so that you may...
Enter more deeply into life.
Honor the Creator.
Give with love to the people God puts in your path.
Be sustained in a Spirit of Hope.

C: **Amen.**

Postlude

Ricercare
Johann Kaspar Ferdinand Fischer

Hymn

We Are All One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

✠ *Participants In the Service of Remembrance* ✠

Glen Aaberg	Darla DeFrance	Henry Orme
Maynard Atik	Jimmy Hao	Steve Redpath
Priscila Austin	Amelia Hare	Veronica Redpath
Molly Barnes	Glenn Hare	Aron Roberts
Verlon Brown	Cindy Jackson	Erin Schadt
Esau Cuevas	Scott Kramer	Elise Scott
Karrin Daniels	David Lapse	Paul Stumme-Diers
Kristy Daniels	Grace Orme	Erik Wilson Weiberg

*.... and many, many people from congregations and agencies
who participated in the Litany of Names:*

Compass Housing Alliance
Queen Anne Lutheran
Northwest Washington Synod
Gethsemane Lutheran
Central Lutheran
Immanuel Lutheran
Lakeridge Lutheran
Ballard First Lutheran
Columbia City Church of Hope
Cross and Crown
Church of Steadfast Love
King County Public Health Department
Operation Nightwatch
Immanuel Community Services
Grace Chinese Lutheran Church
Women in Black