

**SEEKERS CHURCH**  
**A Christian Community**  
*In the Tradition of Church of the Saviour*  
**Learning to Live in the Body**



**Faith Shared**  
**June 26, 2011**

## Jesus Loves Us

Jesus loves us as we grow,  
meets us on the paths we go,  
keeps us safe and keeps us free,  
helps us learn who we should be.

Yes Jesus loves us,  
Yes Jesus helps us,  
Yes Jesus shows us,  
the best way we can go.

Words by Pat Conover  
March 9, 2011  
Traditional Tune

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**PRELUDE**

**Adhan:** Muslim call to prayer

*Allahu Akbar* (x4)

God is Great

*Ashhadu an la ilaha illa Allah* (x2)

I bear witness that there is no god except the One God.

*Ashadu anna Muhammadan Rasool Allah* (x2)

I bear witness that Muhammad is the messenger of God.  
(said two times)

*Hayya 'ala-s-Salah* (x2)

Hurry to the prayer (Rise up for prayer)

*Hayya 'ala-l-Falah* (x2)

Hurry to success (Rise up for Salvation)

*Allahu Akbar* (x2)

God is Great

*La ilaha illa Allah*

There is no god except the One God

**REFLECTION**

There is nothing higher, nothing more holy [than the body]. It is nonsense to contrast God with the body. Be it the individual human body, or the body of humanity itself, or, indeed, the body of all that was created.... Our hands are God's hands in the world. Our hearts are God's heart in the world. God pulsating. God beating. God yearning and open and growing in history.

Carter Heyward, *Touching Our Strength*. p 140

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, people of the Way,  
come find your place in the Body of Christ.

Voice 1: We come, hungry for hope,  
longing for God's loving embrace.

Voice 2: We come, wanting to learn,  
longing for new life in the Realm of God.

Leader: We come to join together as a Body,

All: Learning from the Holy Spirit  
as we work and play and worship together.

## **INVOCATION**

## **HYMN**

## **WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

## **SILENCE**

## **PRAYERS**

### **COMMON CONFESSION**

Leader: Holy One, you live in and among us  
and call us to be your Body.  
We come to you broken, in need of healing.

People: We believe that we are created in your image,  
yet we neglect to love and care for our bodies.

Leader: We do not trust in your providence,  
forgetting the example of the birds of the air,  
the lilies of the field.

People: We long for relationship with you  
and with one another,  
yet we isolate ourselves in narrow self-interest.

Leader: We are formed from the dust of your beautiful earth,  
yet we dishonor the earth and destroy its life.

All: Merciful God, forgive us, heal us,  
and restore us in your Body.

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE

Leader: Through your broken Body  
you restore us to wholeness, again and again.  
We are forgiven.

All: Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today  
to claim our relationship with you.  
We pray for the commitment to grow together,  
sharing the gifts you give us with others  
here and in the wider world.  
Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,  
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.  
Give us strength and discipline  
to nurture our relationship with you;  
to care for every part of your creation;  
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;  
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;  
and to respond joyfully when you call,  
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your creation  
in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

## SONG BEFORE THE WORD

כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה, תְּהַלֵּל יְהוָה:  
הַלְלוּ-יְהוָה.

*Kol haneshama t'hallel Ya. Halleluyah!*

Let all that has breath praise God. Halleluyah.

Psalm 150:6

## THE WORD

CHRISTIAN READING (Matthew 10:40-42)

JEWISH READING AND REFLECTION

### משנה, סנהדרין ד:ה

#### Original Text:

לפיכך נברא אדם יחידי ללמדך שכל המאבד נפש אחת מישראל מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו איבד עולם מלא וכל המקיים נפש אחת מישראל מעלה עליו הכתוב כאילו קיים עולם מלא ומפני שלום הבריות שלא יאמר אדם לחבירו אבא גדול מאביך ושלא יהו מינין אומרים הרבה רשויות בשמים ולהגיד גדולתו של הקדוש ברוך הוא שאדם טובע כמה מטבעות בחותם אחד וכולן דומין זה לזה ומלך מלכי המלכים הקדוש ברוך הוא טבע כל אדם בחותמו של אדם הראשון ואין אחד מהן דומה לחבירו לפיכך כל אחד ואחד חייב לומר בשבילי נברא העולם ושמה תאמרו 3 מה לנו ולצרה הזאת והלא כבר נאמר (ויקרא ה) והוא עד או ראה או ידע אם לא יגיד וגומר ושמה תאמרו מה לנו לחוב בדמו של זה והלא כבר נאמר (משלי יא) באבוד רשעים רנה:

Therefore, humans were created singly ("Adam was created alone"), to teach you that whoever destroys a single soul of Israel, Scripture accounts it as if he had destroyed a full world; and whoever saves one soul of Israel, Scripture accounts it as if she had saved a full world.

**And for the sake of peace among people**, that one should not say to his or her fellow, "My parent is greater than yours" ...

Again, to declare the greatness of the Holy One, blessed be God, for [a person] stamps out many coins with one die, and they are all alike, but the King, the King of kings, the Holy One, blessed be God, **stamped each person with the seal of Adam, and not one of them is like his or her fellow.**

Therefore each and every one is obliged to say, "For my sake the world was created."

*Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5. The Mishna is the first major redaction of the Jewish legal tradition and the first major work of Rabbinic Judaism. Written 220 CE, reflecting debates from 70-220 CE.*

## MUSLIM READING AND REFLECTION

[29:46] Do not argue with the people of the scripture (Jews, Christians, and Muslims) except in the nicest possible manner - unless they transgress - and say, "We believe in what was revealed to us and in what was revealed to you, and our god and your god is one and the same; to Him we are submitters."

❁ وَلَا تَجِدُوا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ إِلَّا بِالتِّي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ وَقُولُوا آمَنَّا بِالَّذِي أُنزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَأُنزِلَ إِلَيْكُمْ وَإِلَهُنَا وَإِلَهُكُمْ وَاحِدٌ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿٤٦﴾

[3:103] And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers. And you were on the edge of a pit of the Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make clear to you His verses that you may be guided.

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٠٣﴾

## **OFFERTORY**

*El rachum v'hanun*

“Compassionate and gracious One.” -- Exodus 34:6

From Rabbi Minna Bromberg's CD, “Open Our Hearts”

## **SHARED REFLECTIONS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **HYMN**

## **BENEDICTION**

Leader: Our hands are the hands of God in the world.  
Our hearts are the heart of God in the world.  
Go forth in courage,  
knowing that Creation waits with eager longing  
for us to reveal ourselves as the children of God.

All: Amen.