



Chapel

Worship Service

February 15, 2022

Black History Month

Prelude

Steph Hord, (she/her)

Call to Worship

Dr. Michael Miller, (he/him), Executive Vice President and Dean

Leader: In a beginning before humans were formed and nature knew God's great presence, the Spirit moved over the universe

All: Ashe!

**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers. *Psalm 24:1-2***

Leader: In quiet peace God created humans, multiple genders,
colorful, balanced and creatively diverse and the beauty of God's love filled the earth

All: Ashe

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

Leader: On this third Tuesday of Black History Month we remember names, because of the ancestors who made a way out of no way with God before them, beside them, and lovingly guiding succeeding generations:

- Nana Yaa Asantewa of Ashanti, Taharqa, ruler of Napatan Kush, Queen Nzingha,
- Mansa Musa I, Emperor of the West African Islamic Empire
- Queen Nanny of the Jamaica Maroons

All: Ashe!

Leader:

- Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Gabriele Prosser, Nate Turner and Denmark Vesey
- Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Jerena Lee, Mary McCloud Bethune,
- WEB DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Jr
- Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells, Daisy Bates, Rosa Parks, Fannie Lou Hamer, Ella Baker, Dorothy Height

These and many more represent the great cloud of witnesses. Their spirits linger with us creating new generations of warriors, preachers, prophets, teachers, activists, organizers, mothers, fathers, and diverse offsprings of the African Diaspora.

All: Ashe!

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed with palm branches in their hands. *Rev. 7:9*

Leader: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!

All: Ashe and Amen

[Adapted, from Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice UCC. Copyright 2020]

Hymn

Christ You Offer Us Your Welcome, by Carolyn Winfrey

Christ, you offer us your welcome; it's a precious gift you give!
You bring reconciliation and you show us how to live.
You call poor ones from their sadness, you call rich ones from their pride.
You call people who are outcast, telling all to "Come inside!"

In a world that's often fearful, where so many stand alone,
you invite us to your table and you welcome people home.
Then you point us to the strangers that, it seems, nobody sees,
and you say, "These are your neighbors. I am here, in each of these."

You have given us a mission — to invite our neighbors in —
and your call to love and listen is a place we can begin.
We need more than open houses; we need, first, to give our hearts.
By your Spirit, make us servants; that's the way your welcome starts.

May we set a welcome table, may we find a common ground
where no one will feel they're labeled, where acceptance can be found.
We don't need to entertain there, or to do things that impress —
just to hear folks' joy and pain there, and to love so all are blest.

Christ, your call to offer welcome is an urgent, mighty call;
you have given us a vision of your Way that welcomes all.
May we seek to meet our neighbors in their vast diversity.
As your loved and welcomed people, may we build community.

Prayer

Kristen Glover, (she/her), M. Div. Student

Upcoming Events: Jonathan Greer, (he/him), M.Div. Student

[**Brief Worship Survey**](#)

Song

Love Rises by The Many

It seems the world's so broken, so little to have hope in.

Sometimes we can't believe the dawn will ever come.

At times we feel so torn up, our hearts are simply worn out.

Sometimes we can't believe the dawn will come.

But then there comes the day and stones are rolled away

Today is the day

Today is the day when love finds a way

Today is the day

Today is the day love has the final say.

Today is the day love rises...

It feels like we can't breathe here and hate is all we see clear

Sometimes we can't believe the dawn will ever come.

But then there comes the day when stones are rolled away

Today is the day

Today is the day when love finds a way

Today is the day

Today is the day love has the final say.

Today is the day

Today is the day when love finds a way

Today is the day

Today is the day love has the final say.

Today is the day love rises

Scripture Reading

Daren Evans (he/him), M. Div. Student

Psalm 1 (Responsive Reading)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

but their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on God's law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,

which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Hymn *Dear God Embracing Human Kind by John Greenleaf Whittier*

Dear God Embracing Human Kind, forgive our foolish ways!

Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,

in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,

the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,

rise up and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,

where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

Introduction of Preacher

Dr. Michael Miller (he/him)

Sermon

“I’m Done”

**Rev. Virzola Law, (she/her),
Senior Pastor of Northway Christian Church Dallas**

Communion

Rev. Virzola Law (she/her)

Hymn

God of Freedom, God of Justice

God of freedom, God of justice, you whose love is strong as death,
You who saw the dark of prison, you who knew the price of faith--
Touch our world of sad oppression with your Spirit's healing breath.

Rid the earth of torture's terror, you whose hands were nailed to wood;

Hear the cries of pain and protest, you who shed the tears and blood;

Move in us the power of pity, restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience quick to hear, to act, to plead;

make us truly sisters, brothers, of whatever race or creed:

Teach us to be fully human, open to each other's need.

Benediction

Dr. Michael Miller (he/him)