Opening Worship Service

The SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College
Syracuse, NY
Thursday, June 1, 2023 • 10:30 AM
Gathering Song

Verse 1
All these pieces
Broken and scattered
In mercy gathered
Mended and whole
Empty handed
But not forsaken
I’ve been set free
I’ve been set free

Pre-Chorus
Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
Oh I once was lost
But now I am found
Was blind but now I see

Chorus
Oh I can see You now
Oh I can see the love in Your eyes
Laying Yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

Verse 2
You take our failure
You take our weakness
You set Your treasure
In jars of clay
So take this heart Lord
I’ll be Your vessel
The world to see Your life in me
Opening, Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

God, see this brokenness- in my hands
See my anguish- upon the ground
My heart within me bleeds and weeps
Bleeds and weeps for wholeness

And yet, this heart within me hopes
It yearns
It longs- for joy, for healing, for dance
It longs to share the stories of community- of building- of growth

Oh, Joy,
Spring up within us
Writhe and dance in our bones
Marrow, flow with songs of peace and justice for God’s own people
That once again new life may spring forth on this Earth.
-Even…within us

That we may, once again know the joy of your presence
The work of your hands
The unity of your Spirit
The strength of your Love
Let us sing a new, new song
Let us build, again, the city of God

From the ashes and brokenness
Rise new life- new Creation
May we all come
Bringing our brokenness
Bringing our whole selves- rough edges and all
May we offer all that we have
And all that we are- to our God

Our God
Who makes highways and streams in the desert
Who transforms our death into life
Our sorrow into joy
Our despair into hope
Our isolation into community
Today, gather us, your people, TOGETHER.
Opening Song

Verse 1
Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin
To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.
To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace,
Singing welcome,

Refrain
Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

Verse 2
Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast,
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,
Singing welcome,

Verse 3
Let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,
Where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!
Crying welcome!
Call & Response

L: Whoever you are, wherever you’re from, you are welcome!
P: This is good news!
L: We have been apart, alone, isolated, separated; in this place we become one body, we are renewed, restored.
P: This is good news!
L: Together, we drink of the one Spirit, and share in the same love that makes us one.
P: This is good news!
L: God heals our illusion of separateness and makes us one and whole.
P: This is good news!
L: Rock and redeemer, you call us to remember that we are all members of one body in your Spirit.
P: We are joyful Together!
L: Remind us that when one of your creatures suffers, all creation suffers. When one of your creatures rejoices, all creation is called to rejoice with them.
P: We are one body, one family. We are Together!
L: Let us worship God with joy and spirit for today is a day of rejoicing!
P: Let us rejoice!
L: Together!
P: Together!
All: Together!
Praise Song

Mourning Into Dancing
CCLI Song # 836046

Chorus 1
[You’ve] turned our mourning
Into dancing again [You’ve] lifted our sorrows
And we can’t stay silent
We must sing for [Your] joy has come (woah)

Verse 1
Where there once was only hurt
[You] gave [Your] healing hand
Where there once was only pain
[You] brought comfort like a friend
We feel the sweetness of [Your] love
Piercing our darkness
We see the bright and morning sun
As it ushers in [Your] joyful gladness

Chorus 2
You’ve turned our mourning
Into dancing again
You’ve lifted our sorrows
And we can’t stay silent
We must sing for Your joy has come (whoa)

Verse 2
Where there once was only hurt
You gave Your healing hand
Where there once was only pain
You brought comfort like a friend
We feel the sweetness of Your love
Piercing our darkness
We see the bright and morning sun
As it ushers in Your joyful gladness

Bridge
Your anger lasts
For a moment in time
But Your favor is here
And will be on us for all our lifetime
Prayer (to be spoken in unison)

Lord, we offer our thanks this day that you have brought us together once again so that we would be renewed and restored and made one. Help us re-member our oneness, our unity in you. With gratitude we rejoice in your presence in this place as we join together. In the name of your son, the Christ, Amen.

Presentation of Scripture 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Message, Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

Song of Reflection Great Are You Lord CCLI Song # 6460220

Verse
You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore ev’ry heart that is broken
And great are You, Lord

Chorus
It’s Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It’s Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge
And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You Lord
Imagine the People of God

Originally written by Mark Miller in celebration of the creation of the Upper New York Annual Conference, June 2011

Imagine, imagine the people of God,
imagine the people of God,
believing, receiving, becoming God’s love,
imagine the people of God.

Imagine, imagine the people of God,
imagine the people of God,
caring, sharing God’s love in the world,
imagine the people of God.

Seeking the way of Jesus Christ,
trusting the courage to change,
being God’s love with our neighbors and friends,
imagine the people of God.

Growing, becoming community,
imagine the people of God.

Trusting in God’s abundant grace,
speaking the truth in love,
nourished in the Spirit’s power,
we are your people, O God.

Imagine, imagine the people of God,
imagine the people of God,
believing, receiving, becoming God’s love,
we are your people, O God.
Prayer

Gracious God, we give thanks for the many and diverse gifts that you have given us. We lift these gifts to you in gratitude and thanksgiving for the ways in which these gifts will be used to bring healing and hope to your world. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

A Piece of the Brokenness

You are each being offered a piece of the brokenness (please take a piece from the bowl in the center of your table); hold it (and as you do so, I remind you that broken pieces often have sharp edges and dangerous points); let it become for you a symbol of all that has felt broken over these past few years that we have been apart. I will invite you into a time of prayer for all that we bring to this time together, I will offer space for your own silent prayer. You are then invited to bring your broken piece and prayerfully offer it to the baptismal font that you see below in front of the stage. The font will remain there throughout the day and you are invited to offer your piece as you feel led to do so. As you come forward to the font, I invite you to bring your broken piece and offer it as a symbol of the hope and promise that is offered in this place; a symbol of possibility, a symbol of newness. As we spend these next few days together, let us remember the God who brings new life from the ashes, who brings new life to the broken pieces, who transforms death into life, despair into hope, isolation into community.

Prayer

God of this day, we hold in our hands a symbol of the brokenness; our own personal brokenness as well as the brokenness of our communities; they represent many things. We offer these to you that you might use them to create newness and blessing; that you might help us re-member that new life can and will arise from them and that you invite us to embrace the new life that is offered. In this moment, we lift that which needs and yearns for newness in our own lives…. (silence). We give you thanks this day Lord for the ways in which you live and move and create in our lives and the lives of those around us. In the name of the Christ, Amen.
Communion

God. Is. With. Us. This is a good thing. Beloved, I invite you to take a moment- close your eyes and draw your awareness to the presence of the Divine in this space…and in each person gathered here…even within yourself. Draw your attention to your heart-space, breathing in and breathing out- opening yourself up to God with gratitude as we pray…Loving One, who is as close as our very breath yet reaching into all eternity, we give you thanks. Your outpouring of radical love has called forth life, among us and within us. You have revealed yourself to us as parent, creator, lover, and friend. In whatever images will bring us healing, You come to us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with all of creation, with all of heaven and earth who forever sing this hymn of glory:

(all)
Holy Holy Holy One.
God of Light and Love.
Heaven and Earth are full with your glory!
Hosanna
Blessed is the One who comes in your name
Hosanna

Blessed are you and your son, Jesus Christ. He showed us the ways of justice and mercy, turning this world upside down. He welcomed and empowered the Other, revealing to us there is no Other. He stood in resistance to the powers of oppression. Christ chose to live out his truth, challenging oppression, which put him at risk. And yet, on the night in which death, hatred, and betrayal would seek to have the last and lasting word, Christ remained centered in radical peace and showed us the embodiment of love by washing feet and serving his beloved (deniers and betrayers) at your table. There he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his friends and said, “Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and said, “Drink from this- all of you- this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these, your acts of love in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves, and all of who we are, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(all)
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Holy Mystery,
We call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform the world around us.
Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body of Christ, that in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, this broken yet hopeful community of believers would reflect the diverse image of Christ in this world. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other and in each other’s struggles, until we feast at your heavenly banquet. Through Christ, In Christ, With Christ, In the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.
Invitation to the Table

We share this bread which is broken for us.
We share this cup which is filled for us.
All are invited and welcome at this table. These are the gifts of God for the people of God, and you are welcome here.
The table is set. Come and feast.

Breaking and Sharing

Communion Song

Verse 1
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won’t hunger anymore at His table

Chorus
Come all you weary; come and find
His yoke is easy; His burden is light
He is able; He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)

Verse 2
There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won’t worry anymore at His table

Verse 3
There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won’t suffer anymore at His table

Verse 4
I’m invited to the table of the Lord
I’m invited to the table of the Lord
[Jesus] says come just as you are to His table

Bridge
I know He has a place for me
Oh what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God
Prayer after Receiving

Lord, we are fed by your bounty, for your abundance is always shared. May we be blessed to be a blessing.

(All)
May we go from this place knowing you have been present with us and through us. Amen.

Closing Song

Verse 1
When darkness tries to roll over my bones
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own
When brokenness and pain is all I know
I won’t be shaken I won’t be shaken

Chorus
My fear doesn’t stand a chance
When I stand in Your love
(REPEAT)

Verse 2
Shame no longer has a place to hide
I am not a captive to the lies
I’m not afraid to leave my past behind
I won’t be shaken I won’t be shaken

Bridge
There’s power that can break off every chain
There’s power that can empty out a grave
There’s resurrection power that can save
There’s power in Your name power in Your name

Ending
Standing in Your love

Benediction, Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez
**Worship Planning Team:** Rev. Nancy Dibelius, chairperson; Rev. Chad Sayers; Pastor Kevin Kitto; Pastor Rebekah Solar; Dr. Grace Burke; Elizabeth Aristy

**Music Team:** YoungKwang “YK” Jun, Music Director; Rev. Sooah Na; Nairobi O. Smith; Sahnhah Hahn; JongMin Ahn, Rev. Rolando Santiago-Fuentes; Rev. Guillermo Javier Barroso; Brendan James Fox

**Special thanks to all who have helped with this service in any way.**
together!
Living the Gospel. Being God’s love.
Annual Conference 2023