

Service of Worship Knox Church Ōtepoti Dunedin

Sunday 3 November 2024 - 7pm

Prayers for Political Stability: Politics of the Brokenhearted

Leading: Rachel Tombs & Peg Pfab

Welcome and Call to Worship... Rachel

In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began, **God was.**

Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, **God is.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment, **God will be.**

Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, **God was, God is, God will be.**

Music for Reflection:

Come, All Who Are Weary Come (*The Porter's Gate*)

Opening Prayer (unison)... Peg

It is a fearful and frightening time, O Holy One. For though we are created to be sisters and brothers on this earth, we have been torn asunder by distrust, violence, greed and dishonesty. Sometimes we despair of a better world.

Let us not to abandon hope. Help us to overcome our fear, apathy and anger and work to bring unity to your children. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Writings:

Deut. 31:8

And the Holy One will go before you; the Divine Presence will be with you and will not fail you or abandon you. Therefore, fear not, neither be dismayed nor lose hope. (OJB)

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.

Song: *Be Not Afraid*

Robert J Dufford

You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst
You wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words to foreign men
And they will understand
You shall see the face of God and live

*Be not afraid
I go before you always
Come follow me
And I will give you rest*

If you pass through raging waters
In the sea you shall not drown
If you walk amid the burning flames
You shall not be harmed
If you stand before the power of hell
And death is at your side
Know that I am with you through it all

Be not afraid ...

And blessed are your poor
For the kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are you that weep and mourn
For one day you shall laugh
And if wicked men insult and hate you
All because of Me
Blessed, blessed are you

Be not afraid ...

Politics of the Brokenhearted by Parker Palmer - Sharing from his article... Peg

A Different Context: US & NZ... Rachel

Small Group Sharing

--- How do you respond to the idea that when your heart breaks it opens you to empathy, love, compassion? Or does it?

--- Identify an area of your life in which you encounter someone you disagree with...

--- Are you reluctant to engage with that person? Why?

--- How would you engage someone when you disagree?

Prayers for the World... Rachel

You are invited to name or touch a place on the globe during these prayers.

Song: *Hamba nathi, Come, Walk with Us* (South African Traditional)

Come, walk with us, the journey is long. X4

Refrain: (after each verse)

The journey, the journey, the journey is long. X4

Come (.....) with us, the journey is long. X4

Blessing: Peg

You are invited to stay and share tea ...