

Women and the Word
March 18, 1988
Sacrament of Holy Communion
4:30 p.m.

Call to Worship

You shall be my witnesses through all the earth,
telling of all you have heard and received,
for I arose and am with you,
and you have believed!

*Hymn

Psalm 30

No.69 Becoming One
TALLIS CANON

*Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:
God of Good News
God of surprises,
we come together to praise You
and to open ourselves wide
to your Intuitive touch.
Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses,
women of history,
named and unnamed,
known and unknown,
we drink deep of the wisdom
and fidelity
of the past,
the faith of our foremothers
who showed us how
to live what we believe.
When driven to doubt,
when close to despair,
may we still believe in miracles
and witness courageously
to what might be
in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Scripture

Matthew 27:55-28:10

Margaret Wiborg

Presentation of the Elements

Credo: Patricia Curran, Kathleen Henry, Nancy Rowen

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*Hymn

Psalm 30

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*Prayer of Invocation

Scripture Matthew 27:55-28:10

Margaret Wiborg

Presentation of the Elements

Credo: Patricia Curran, Kathleen Henry, Nancy Rowen

*Communion Prayer

Rev. Shirley Hoover

God be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Lift up your hearts.

WE LIFT THEM TO GOD.

Let us give thanks to God Most Gracious.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

Passionate God, Source of all life, we delight in giving you praise; with purpose and compassion you gave of yourself, created our world and called it good; you blessed humankind with grace, created us female and male and called us to be partners with you in the work of creation.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, HOLY ONE, THAT WE ARE ONE WITH YOU AND WITH ALL OF CREATION.

Reconciling God, in Jesus of Nazareth, Mary's child and our brother, you call us to face our fears, bind our wounds, and love one another with tenderness and mercy. Through the witness of Miriam and Moses, Paul and Mary you speak to us of forgiveness, despite our unwillingness to claim your vision and become your Word. We come to this table blessed by the power of your grace, grateful for the diversity of your human family, rejoicing in the presence of your steadfast love.

WE GIVE YOU THANKS, HOLY ONE, FOR THE HEALING TOUCH OF REDEEMING LOVE.

We pray in the power of this love for all who suffer violence, for all who are bound by the fears of isolation, for all who feel betrayed by love, for all who seek shalom in a broken world and for all who cling to false paths.

**MAY PEACE BE THE MESSAGE, MAY FREEDOM BE THE GIFT, MAY
RECONCILIATION BE THE PROMISE, MAY WHOLENESS BE THE HOPE, MAY
TRUTH BE THE PATH; MAY WE BECOME YOUR WORD FOR ONE
ANOTHER.**

Above all, we rejoice in the renewing touch of your Holy Spirit, which gathers us as one body, strengthens us in adversity and leads us to wonder and to praise. Therefore, in the power of your reconnecting love, we join the chorus of faithful people everywhere and proclaim with one voice:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, GOD,
GOD OF LOVE AND MAJESTY,
THE WHOLE UNIVERSE SPEAKS OF YOUR GLORY.
O GOD MOST FAITHFUL.**

**BLESSED IS THE ONE
WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF OUR GOD!
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!**

On the night in which he gave himself up, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he gave the bread to his disciples, saying "This is my body given for you and for all. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

With this bread and this cup, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**CHRIST HAS DIED
CHRIST IS RISEN
CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**

Eternal God, in the presence of one another we present to you our very lives, committing our selves to your ways of truth and wisdom as we lead justice-making lives. Bless us, we pray, by the power of your Holy Spirit and bless these gifts of the earth, that our eyes might be opened and that we might recognize in one another the power of your Christ. Amen.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup.

Holy things are for holy people.
THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

**ETERNAL GOD, IN WHOM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS THAT YOU HAVE NURTURED US IN THIS
COMMUNITY AND FED US AT THIS TABLE. MAY THE BREAD AND THE
CUP OF JESUS THE CHRIST SUSTAIN US, EVEN AS WE SUSTAIN ONE
ANOTHER WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION. GRANT THAT WE MIGHT BE
TRUE TO YOUR WORD, AND FAITHFUL TO YOUR VISION THAT THE
POWER OF YOUR LOVE MIGHT LIVE IN US AND THROUGH US. MAY WE
BE RAINBOWS OF HOPE AND COVENANTS OF TRUST, BLESSING AND
RENEWING OUR WORLD NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.**

*Hymn

Trouble and Beauty
(see separate sheet)

Tune and Text by Carolyn McDade
Katie Eastman

*Blessing and Dismissal

Women and the Word: Becoming the Word

Thursday, March 17, 1988

10:00 a.m.

Marsh Chapel, Boston University

Prelude "Whither Thou Goest" Louise Talma
Dr. Linda Clark

Call to Worship Rev. June C. Goudey

Leader: If the Word is to take flesh today, the
Word must be made welcome, the
Word must be received and made
visible in us.

People: THE WORD CONTINUES TO PURSUE
OUR HEARTS. FOR THOSE TIMES
THAT WE CAN TRULY SAY: I AM IN
THE WORD, AND THE WORD IS IN
ME, LET US GIVE THANKS
AND PRAISE.

*Hymn "The God of Prophets Praise" LEONI
21 Everflowing Streams

*Greeting

In the name of the triune God: the Creator, the
Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

*Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

COME, O CREATOR, O IMMENSITY OF LOVE,
O ETERNITY OF MERCY. COME, AND BE
WITH US AND IN US AND BESIDE US AND
OVER US. BE AS HANDS UPON US, AND
FASHION US FOR SHINING. BE AS
WARMTH WITHIN US, AND FIRE US FOR
CARING. BE AS STRENGTH BESIDE US, AND
SHAPE OUR LIVES FOR HEALING. ABIDE
IN OUR PRAYERS, THE SPOKEN AND THE
UNSPOKEN; AND MAKE YOUR WORD COME
TRUE IN OUR FLESH; THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST OUR REDEEMER. AMEN.

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (seated)

Let us ask God for the forgiveness we need.

Silence

All: MERCIFUL HEALER, WE DO NOT CLAIM OUR
GIFTS. WE DO NOT FACE UP TO OUR CALL.
WE DO NOT APPRECIATE YOUR
PARTNERSHIP IN CREATING A NEW
COMMUNITY AND A NEW WORLD.
TODAY WE REPENT. WE TURN FROM OUR
OLD WAYS AND COMMIT OURSELVES TO
NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR HOLDING ON AND
FOR NEW VISIONS FOR A DIFFERENT
HEAVEN AND EARTH. AMEN.

Silence

*Assurance of Pardon

Anyone In Christ becomes a new person
altogether; the past is finished and gone,
everything has become fresh and new.
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN.

*Exchange of Peace

*Act of Praise

PRAISE MY SOUL

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
Glad of heart your carols raise;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the Maker all your days!

Scripture Readings

Margaret Montjane

Ruth 1: 6-18

Mark 14: 1-9

Sermon

"I and Thou"

Rev. Kay Albury-Smith

Litany of Commitment

Let us join in prayer for strength, for wisdom, for courage:

we pray for strength. . .

FOR BODIES FORMED IN PLAY
FOR COMMUNITIES FORMED IN JOY
FOR A SPIRIT FORMED IN DETERMINATION
FOR STRENGTH BORN OF GOD.

[silence]

we pray for wisdom. . .

FOR HEARTS OPEN TO CHANGE
FOR MINDS OPEN TO THE WORLD
FOR A VISION OPEN TO THE FUTURE
FOR A WISDOM BORN OF GOD.

[silence]

we pray for courage. . .

FOR SOULS FILLED WITH LONGING
FOR PEOPLE FILLED WITH PURPOSE
FOR A FUTURE FILLED WITH HOPE
FOR COURAGE BORN OF GOD.

Anthem "A Prayer for Pressing On"

Wesley/JaneMarshall

Seminary Singers

Concluding Prayer:

Lord's Prayer (prayed in your own vernacular)

Hymn "Mother of Creation" ADORO TE DEVOTE
No 36 Becoming One

Benediction

Postlude

In the tradition of Marsh Chapel, you are invited to remain seated during the postlude.

(second option)

Litany of Commitment

Let us join in prayer for strength, for wisdom, for
courage:

we pray for strength. . .

FOR BODIES FORMED IN PLAY,
FOR COMMUNITIES FORMED IN JOY,
for a spirit formed in determination,
FOR STRENGTH BORN OF GOD.

[silence]

we pray for wisdom. . .

FOR HEARTS OPEN TO CHANGE,
FOR MINDS OPEN TO THE WORLD,
for a vision open to the future,
FOR A WISDOM BORN OF GOD.

[silence]

we pray for courage. . .

FOR SOULS FILLED WITH LONGING,
FOR PEOPLE FILLED WITH PURPOSE,
for a future filled with hope,
FOR COURAGE BORN OF GOD.

Anthem "A Prayer for Pressing On"

Wesley/JaneMarshall

Seminary Singers

Concluding Prayer:

Lord's Prayer (prayed in the vernacular)