



## AGAPE FEAST

### GOSPEL LESSON 1

Mark 7:31-37 (the Message)

<sup>31-35</sup> Then he left the region of Tyre, went through Sidon back to Galilee Lake and over to the district of the Ten Towns. Some people brought a man who could neither hear nor speak and asked Jesus to lay a healing hand on him. He took the man off by himself, put his fingers in the man's ears and some spit on the man's tongue. Then Jesus looked up in prayer, groaned mightily, and commanded, "*Ephphatha!*—Open up!" And it happened. The man's hearing was clear and his speech plain—just like that.

<sup>36-37</sup> Jesus urged them to keep it quiet, but they talked it up all the more, beside themselves with excitement. "He's done it all and done it well. He gives hearing to the deaf, speech to the speechless."

### CALL TO THE FEAST

#### PRAYER OF ADORATION:

**Living God, you are present in our midst and we praise you. You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion. For this, we praise you because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance. Because your Spirit makes a new path for us, as we struggle to live in the shadow of doubt and fear. Weak as we are, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy and we praise you. Amen.**

### SIGNS & SYMBOLS

#### SHARING THE FEAST

"Tibetan Monks Destroy Mandela Creation" (Y.T.)

#### SONG

Lean On Me

(Tim and Jim)

### GOSPEL LESSON 2

Mark 8:22-26 (The Message)

<sup>22-23</sup> They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?"

<sup>24-26</sup> He looked up. "I see men. They look like walking trees." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, "Don't enter the village."

#### SONG:

Praise to the Living God

(EMILIA)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(You are invited unmute yourself and share your prayer of joy or sorrow and the gathered body, led by Pastor Emilia will reply "God, hear our prayer.")*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord's Prayer: (Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos)

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us - make it useful. Create your reign of unity now-through our fiery hearts and willing hands. Help us love beyond our ideals and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures. Animate the earth within us: we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all. Untangle the knots within so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose. Out of you, the astonishing fire, returning light and sound to the cosmos. Amen.**

## SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

## CLOSING SONG: #391

## In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,  
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

As we stand a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,  
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,  
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.  
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,  
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

BENEDICTION & SENDING:

"Lakota Prayer" &  
*First Church Open and Affirming Statement*

Our spirits are with you, Great Spirit.

**You strengthen us day and night to share our very best with our brothers and sisters regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or faith background.**

You, whom our people see in all of creation and in all people, show your love for us.

**Help us to know, like the soaring eagle, the heights of knowledge.**

From the Four Directions, fill us with the four virtues of fortitude, generosity, respect, and wisdom; so that we will be able to help our people walk in the path of understanding and peace.

**Our worship has ended, our service now begins.**

POSTLUDE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

(Adele)

Please join us for virtual coffee hour after the Worship Service  
All are invited!

