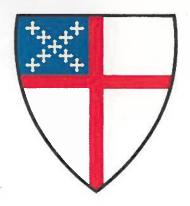
Day of Repentance and Reconciliation



The Diocese of Mississippi
The Rt. Reverend Duncan M. Gray III,
Bishop

May 21, 2011 2:00 P.M. St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral Jackson, Mississippi



In a letter to the Episcopal Church in Mississippi last fall, I invited the church to walk with me "on a journey that will take us deep into our past in both this church and this state." I warned that this "will be a journey of some difficulty, but I believe the soul of our church is at stake."

We are in the midst of several years of anniversaries of major events that have shaped both our church and the state we inhabit. These watershed anniversaries provide an extraordinary opportunity to confront the truth of our past in order to bring healing to our present and hope for our future.

It is in this spirit that the Task Force on Racial Reconciliation offers this liturgy of Repentance and Reconciliation. It is not easy, I wrote, "to return to parts of my (our) past. The temptation is always to call the past the past and move on. However, the past in both our individual and corporate lives, left unexamined or ignored, will control us in very unhelpful ways. My redemption and freedom requires the cross of accountability. As Mr. Faulkner once noted, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

May God bless us on this journey.

The Rt. Rev Duncan M. Gray III

Bishop of Mississippi

Weather permitting, the processional party and all interested persons will gather at 1:30 at the site of the Trailways Bus Station (the MS Museum of Art) to begin our liturgy.

A formal procession to the Cathedral will follow. The Procession stops at the front steps of the Cathedral.

A deacon then leads the following:

Prayer for Inspiration

Deacon O Lord, you have created us equal, yet we have treated one another unjustly.

People Forgive us, O God.

Deacon You created us in your holy image, yet we have failed to recognize the dignity and

sacredness of your image in every person.

People Forgive us, O God.

Deacon Some of the old wounds of injustice are still bleeding, and the callousness of our scars

prevent us from being more sensitive to others as we ought to.

People Heal us, O God.

Deacon Help us that we may listen to those to whom injustices have been done until we hear your

cry in theirs and feel your pain in theirs.

People Heal us, O God.

Deacon As the new, tender skin emerges from the old scars, create in us a new humility through the

brokenness of our experience.

People Create in us, O God, a new humanity.

Deacon May we celebrate together the dignity and sacredness of humanity in one another for the

sake of your glory.

There follows a solemn procession into the nave.

Confession

Celebrant Let us confess the sins of what we have done and what we have not done.

All kneel.

cy.

Reader 1 We, the Church,

People confess our complicity in the sin of slavery.

All (sung)

Lord have mer cy.

Lord have mer cy.

Reader 2 We, the Church,

People confess that the Diocese of Mississippi was built upon the backs of enslaved persons and

diocesan buildings were built by those very people.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Reader 3 We, the Church,

People confess that our Episcopal diocese supported the institution of slavery.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Reader 4 We, the Church,

People confess that when freedom came to the enslaved we did nothing to prevent their re-

enslavement by Jim Crow.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Reader5 We, the Church,

People aware of this commission and omission, do heartly repent and ask the forgiveness of the

descendants of those enslaved people who have been uniquely affected by this sin.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Reader6 We, the Church,

People acknowledge one faith inclusive of all of God's children.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Reader 7 We, the Church,

People acknowledge one faith that recognizes the equality of each individual within the Church and

in the greater community. We acknowledge the continuing problem of racism in our state. We seek to redress the problem, a wound in the side of the Church body and a legacy of our

past actions.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Reader8 For all in our Church who have been affected by these grievous actions

People We pledge to them our love and faith to a renewed commitment to repent of the time of

enslavement and to diligently work to cleanse our hearts of racism.

All (sung) Lord, have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

Hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

The People sit.

The First Reading: Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Psalm 51:1-2, 11-18

The antiphon is sung first by the choir and thereafter by everyone.



Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Antiphon

My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

Antiphon

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Antiphon

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me, O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

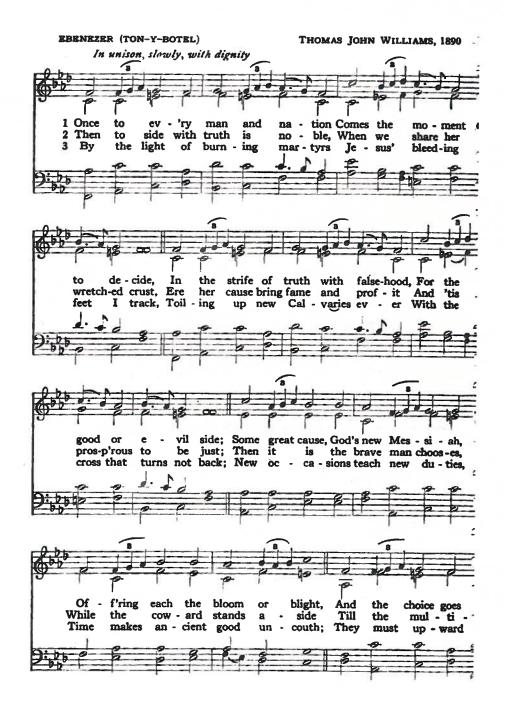
Antiphon

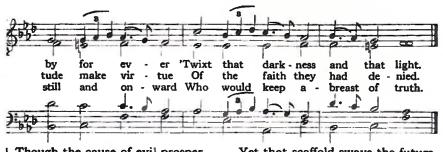
The Second Reading: Langston Hughes' "A Dream Deferred"

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore-And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over-like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

The People stand. Sequence Hymn "Once to Every Man and Nation"





Though the cause of evil prosper, Yet 'tis truth alone is strong; Though her portion be the scaffold, And upon the throne be wrong, Yet that scaffold sways the future, And, behind the dim unknown, Standeth God within the shadow Keeping watch above his own. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, 1845

The Gospel: Luke 4:16-21

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

The People sit.

The Homily

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III

The People kneel.

Prayers for Reconciliation

Bishop We have marred your image within us, O God, for we have violated the spirit of love which you intended for each of us to express.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop You have called us to be brothers and sisters together, taking responsibility for your creation.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop But we have divided ourselves by the erection of barriers of superiority and power; by not encouraging persons to develop pride in themselves which is theirs as children of God.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop We have glorified ourselves at the expense of the dignity and humanity of others.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop Sometimes, O God, we have lived and taught our children to live by a creed of racism, declaring that some of us, by reason of our color, are superior and others of us are inferior.

And what is more, O God, we have developed ways to institutionalize our racial sins against

People one another and to justify them in your name.

Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop We have forgotten the partnership of our creation and denied each other equal place of honor and responsibility within the world, forgetting that no one of us can make it on our own, but we need each other.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop At times, O God, we have abused our children and battered our old, forgetting that persons of all ages are sacred and expressions of maturing grace.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

By our insensitivity to justice, we have removed from our sight the presence of those who are poor, hurting, broken, marginalized and imprisoned.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop We confess unto you, O God, that there is a sickness within us and there is a brokenness within our community.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop Because we have not recognized the presence of your Christ in the face and conditions of our brothers and sisters, we have sinned against you.

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Bishop We cry out for healing – "Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no great physician there?"

People Hear our prayer, O God, and forgive us, we pray.

Hear not simply the recitation of our offenses, but see also the sorrow in our hearts. Forgive our sins of racism, which we have confessed unto you and give unto us newness of life and singleness of heart. Through Christ our crucified and risen Savior. Amen

Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant

The Celebrant addresses the people in these words, all standing.

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that we have confessed our complicity in the sins of slavery and racism, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

People Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in

the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the

Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every

human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Hymn "We Shall Overcome"

1. We shall overcome,

we shall overcome,

we shall overcome someday.

Oh, deep in my heart,

I do believe,

we shall overcome some day.

2

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,

we'll walk hand in hand today.

Oh, deep in my heart,

I do believe,

we shall overcome some day.

3.

God is on our side,
God is on our side,

God is on our side today.

Oh, deep in my heart,

I do believe,

we shall overcome some day.

4.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid.

we are not afraid today.

Oh, deep in my heart,

I do believe,

we shall overcome some day.

5.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,

we shall live in peace someday.

Oh, deep in my heart,

I do believe,

we shall overcome some day.

The Peace

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

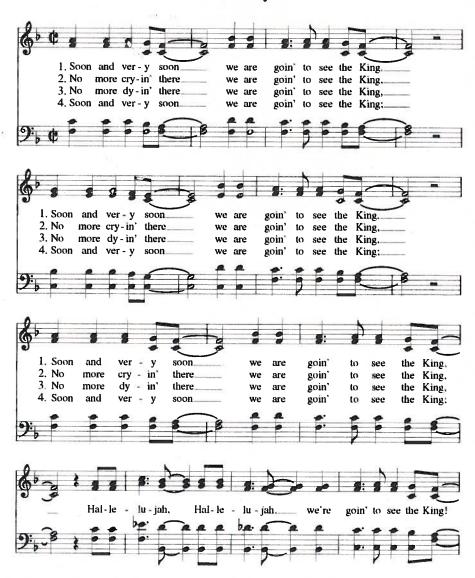
Welcome and Announcements

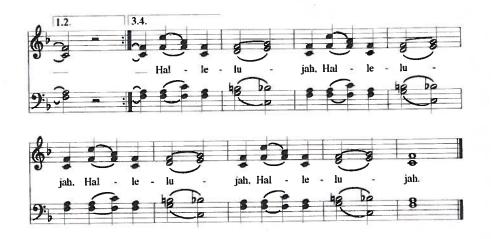
Offertory Anthem "Come Sunday" Duke Ellington

James Martin, baritone

The offertory is designated to the support of Piney Woods School, the oldest boarding school for African-American young people in the nation. Its founder, Dr. Laurence Jones, was a long-time member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Jackson.

Presentation Hymn "Soon and Very Soon"





Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation and Community

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

Bishop

People We lift them up to you, God.

Bishop Let us give thanks to our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of Heaven and Earth, who with your eternal Word and Holy Spirit are forever one God. You created us out of the dust of the Earth. We are equally of humble origin. Then you breathed into us your holy breath, your Spirit of life, to animate us and to grace us with the equal dignity and preciousness of life, which comes from you. When you heard the cry and saw the affliction of your people in Egypt, you placed a burning bush on the holy mountain as a sign of your unending presence in the midst of our suffering. You called your servants to deliver us from the oppression of slavery and injustice. When our journey to freedom was suddenly halted by the presence of a great sea, you parted the water before our eyes. You journeyed with us. When we were in the desert, you nurtured us with your heavenly bread and quenched our thirst with your holy water. You made a covenant with us to be our sovereign God and taught us to seek justice, to correct oppression, to defend the helpless and to plead for the powerless. When we broke the covenant and turned away from your teaching, your redemptive love remained steadfast. When we were in exile, you spoke through your prophets to keep our vision of freedom and justice alive in our hearts. Through the voice of one crying in the wilderness you spoke to us and said:

People Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight the paths to freedom. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see your salvation.

Bishop You delivered us from captivity and led us into freedom. And so, with your people on Earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (LEVAS II) of Heav-en and filled with your earth are Ho high Bless-ed He comes in name the of the of the high

high -

In the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, Jesus Christ, into our midst. Your Spirit anointed Him to preach goodness to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim that the time of justice and liberty had come. Christ Jesus shared our brokenness in His humanity, and through his own brokenness He healed us that we may share in the wholeness of His humanity. He ate and drank with those who were alienated and discriminated against, that those who follow Him may also join in His ministry to bring wholeness to this broken world. At Cana in Galilee, Jesus turned ordinary water into the wine of celebration, to celebrate with us in anticipation of the coming of your kingdom when all of us, in all

diversity, will come together to the table of your heavenly banquet as brothers and sisters in You. By our baptism into His suffering, death and resurrection, you gave birth to your

na

est.

Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised to be with us always in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which He gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to his disciples 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."

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work among all peoples — God's children — of the world: black and yellow, red and white, precious in His sight. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

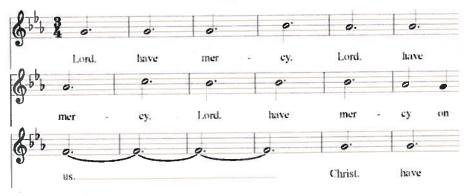
People In the breaking of the Bread, we are made one.

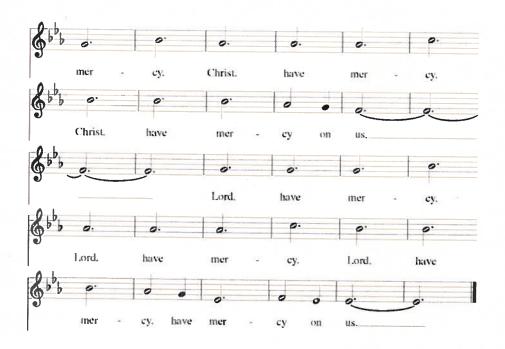
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his Blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Jesus comes in final victory, and we feast at His Heavenly banquet. Through your eternal Word, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread
The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.
Silence.





Bishop Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Bishop The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymns

The following hymn is sung while the Celebrant, ministers and choir receive communion.

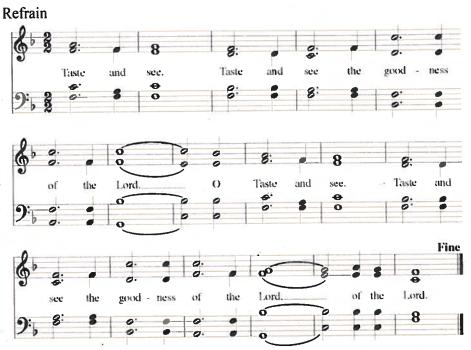
Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees.) Let us break bread together on our knees (on our knees). When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees) Let us drink wine together on our knees (on our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Let us praise God together on our knees (yes, on our knees) Let us praise God together on our knees (yes, on our knees) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, Oh Lord, have mercy on me (on me).

Choral Presentation Taste and See



1.

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall always be on my lips; my soul shall glory in the Lord; for He has been so good to me. Refrain

2.

Glorify the Lord with me.

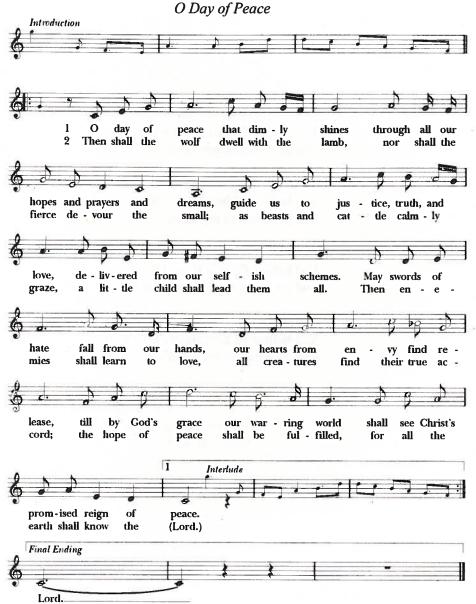
Together let us all praise His name.
I called the Lord and He answered me;
from all my troubles He set me free.

Refrain

3.

Worship the Lord all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask. Taste and see that God is good; in Him we need put all our trust. Refrain

Post-Communion Hymn



The Blessing

Closing Hymn "Oh, Freedom!"

Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

No more mourning, no more mourning, no more mourning over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

No more crying, no more crying, no more crying over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

Oh freedom, oh freedom over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

There'll be singin', there'll be singin', there'll be singin' over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

Oh freedom, oh freedom, oh freedom over me And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in a my grave And go home to my Lord and be free

Commendation and Dismissal

For everything a season and a time for every Matter under heaven. For Growing up and growing older, For wisdom deepened by experience, And time made precious by its passing... For who we are and for what we want to be... For those we have loved and lost And those who love us still, For the memories of yesterday And the promise of days to come... For the courage to be whatever It is we want to be and for This moment now to reach Out to each other and not be afraid For way out in the mid night air The unicorns come down to the sea And the whole church says

People Selah, Amen for everything.

Deacon

Let us go forth into the world as sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!