*Song **STONE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN** For Evervone Born^ September 3, 2023 Faces of our Faith: Joseph of Arimathea From "Closure" by Amanda Gorman

To begin again To breathe the same air. Isn't to go backwards, All we have is time, is now... But to decide to go. How we are moved says everything Our story is not a circle... About what we are to each other We disembark both beside & bevond & what are we to each other Who we were, who we are... If not everything. Perhaps love is how it feels

WELCOME

Pastor Ben

Prelude	All Creatures of Our God and King		
	Kathy Myers	Geistliche Kirchengesäng	

CENTERING POEM	Who Can Spell Despair?	Stacia-Fe Gillen
	By Nikki Grimes	

Song	Taste and See^	James Moore
	(sing twice)	
Tact	and son tasta and son the goodness (of the Lord

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

RESPONSIVE READING Inspired by Psalm 34: 1-8 Stacia-Fe Gillen One: I live and breathe God - blessing the Lord every chance I get.

All: Praise continually fills my mouth!

One: In all sorts of circumstances, my being expands with praise.

All: Join us in spreading the good news!

One: Together, let's get the word out: God is good!

All: God hears us and is with us in our fears. One: We are not alone. God is faithful.

All: There is space for all at God's table; God is good! One: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Shirlev Murrav/Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain: and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For gay and for straight, a place at the table, a covenant shared, a welcoming space, a rainbow of race and gender and colour, for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,

REFRAIN

For young and for old, a place at the table, A voice to be heard, a part in the song, The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled. For young and for old, the right to belong,

REFRAIN

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,

REFRAIN

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Pastor Cindy

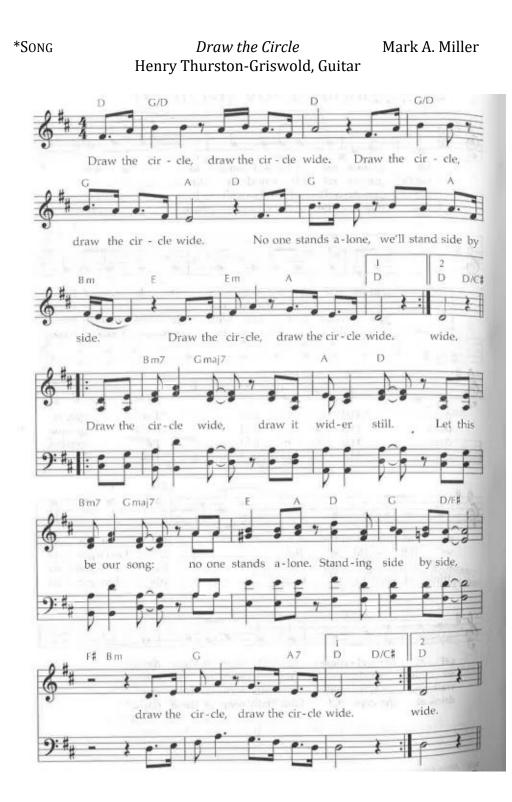
I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table^ SONG African American Spiritual

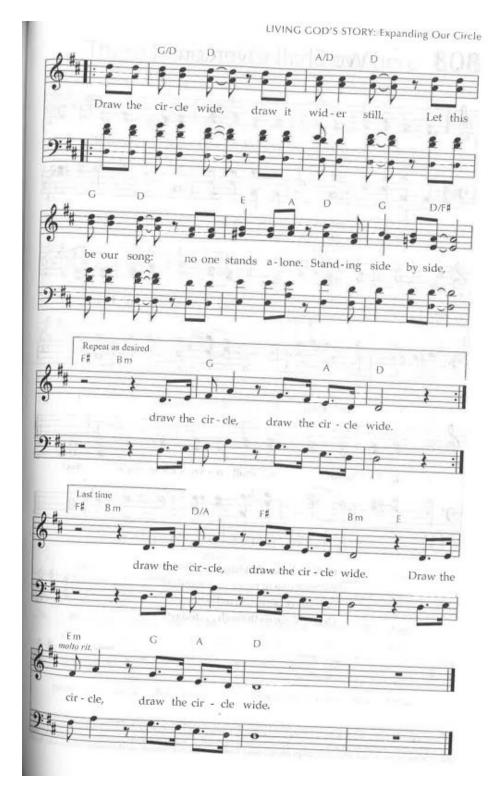
> I'm gonna sit at the welcome table; I'm gonna sit at the welcome table, Alleluia. (twice)

REFLECTIONS ON OUR WELCOME STATEMENT Martha, Joanne, C3, Dante (with I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table as directed)

I'm gonna sit with my loving family; I'm gonna sit with my loving family, Alleluia. (twice)

Here all the world will find a welcome: Here all the world will find a welcome, Alleluia. *(twice)*





PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY		Pastor Ben
SCRIPTURE READING	Luke 23: 44-56	Harriet Kaylor
Sermon	Eager Anticipation	Pastor Cindy
*LITANY OF DEDICATION	and Commitment	

(ASL by Darlene)

Cyrus: God loves you. God loves me. God loves everyone.

All: We renew our commitment to put this belief into practice.

- Bill: Inspired by the collaboration and cooperation that brought this creative work of art forth, we hope to live more fully into our own words. To live even beyond them.
- Nina: Stone Church of the Brethren is a Christ-centered community which celebrates every individual as a unique and beloved child of God.

All: We acknowledge that we do not all agree.

Bekah: Our understandings and backgrounds are varied. What some celebrate, others may mourn.

But we choose to see this as a gift as opposed to a liability.

All: We commit to continuing to learn and grow together – trusting that with Christ as our center, we can move beyond simplistic divisions of "us" and "them." We embrace questions and curiosity and wonder and awe.

Eddie: We welcome all.

- Bill: Regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race,
- Bekah: ethnicity, physical or mental ability, economic circumstance, or current relationship with God.
- Nina: This is a place of belonging. You belong here. You belong to God. We belong to each other.
- Bekah: We will continue to cultivate this community to be a place where we hope and work toward transformation as opposed to a place where we take a stand against other children of God. Exploration and expansion are necessary parts of a faith journey and we aim to give space for all of us to flourish and contribute our gifts at every step, without judgment or condemnation.

-	ur active participation		
	this congregation,		
	ve continue to grow in gra tice for God's creation.	ice	
	the seasons of life make it s	so that what we	can do
Bill: We seek to suppo - recognizing tha	ort each other through thos t we all have times where w es where we are carried.		
	r grace to each other and ough the ups and downs of	life.	
All: The work of	justice is never done.		
quick fixes. We w	ng term labor that moves b ill pursue deep listening, st lection, and good self care a rting.	eady presence,	
humility as w	rrength, courage, wisdom, b e keep striving toward the ve that God desires.		ce and
recognizing) looking around for the v God's image in each one, a sion and love.	•	g
P 1	his art, this Welcome States toward inward reflection a		tion.
Cyrus: May it inspire and keep reme	us to keep thinking, keep g mbering:	rowing,	
All: God loves yo	u. God loves me. God lov	es everyone.	
ANTHEM	Child of God^	Marl	k A. Miller
Sending		Pas	stor Cindy
Postlude	Postlude Fugato Kathy Myers	A. Louis S	Scarmolin
^Music reprinted with permission u *Please Rise, as Able,	nder One License # A-723	s know you ere here!	