



CHURCH BECOMING

2020 Assembly
Rocky Mountain Synod

**RMS Synod Assembly
Agenda and Worship
May 2, 2020**

**Afternoon Worship
Church Becoming**



*Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
Behold! I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

We are Church 50-40-10 - Better Together!

Pastor Leslie Welton, Office of the Bishop

In 2020, we celebrate 50 years of ordaining women into ministry in the ELCA and its predecessor bodies. We celebrate 40 years of ordaining women of color and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ colleagues being able to serve freely. As part of this 50-40-10 anniversary year, we lament that women, women of color, and LGBTQIA+ individuals were barred from serving, and were bullied, dismissed and excluded. And we acknowledge that we have so much more work to do!

Today, we celebrate that we have come this far by faith, and we look to the future of professional leadership knowing that we are becoming the church in a whole new culture and context.

At our RMS Theological Conference in October 2019, we celebrated our LGBTQIA+ colleagues with stories, blessings, and worship. Today, we honor our female/femme colleagues in ministry and commemorate fifty years of faithful ministry.

Video Procession Celebrating 50-40

One with All in Christ - a song to commemorate 50 / 40 / 10
words and music by Aimée and Joel Pakan

© 2020 tangledblue.com

Prayer of the Day

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you gave the church the gift of women as your witnesses. As preachers, teachers, prophets, and leaders, women have served the church faithfully and with perseverance. Open our hearts to embrace and celebrate all of our partners in ministry. Open our minds to work together creatively in these challenging days - through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever - Amen.

Readings: Ruth 1:1-17

Pastor Reba Kiger-Kolasch, retired, Ogden, UT

A reading from Ruth chapter one

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi and the names of this two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that God had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May God deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. God grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughter, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "See your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
Where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die —
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death
parts me from you!”

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God

Romans 16:1-4

Deacon Laura Carson, Peace, Las Cruces, NM

A reading from Romans chapter 16

I commend to you our sister Pheobe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

Greet Prisca and Aquila who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God

Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor Jo Ann Neal, Our Savior's, Casper, WY

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled

back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guard shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Homilies

Pastor Laura Bostrom, Abiding Hope, Littleton, CO

Pastor Pam Stofferahn, United Church of the San Juans, Ridgeway, CO

Pastor Barbara Berry-Bailey, St. Paul, Denver, CO

Hymn: *Canticle of the Turning* - ELW #723

Please join in singing the hymn printed on the next page

Pastor Adam Berndt, Addison Berndt, Bennett Berndt, Amy Ellis, Richard

Hielkema, Greg Morrison, Nancy Morrison, Crosso of Hope, Albuquerque, NM

Pastor Paul Schick, Community of Joy, Rio Rancho, NM



Affirmation of Deacons:

The Ministry of Word and Service has New Testament roots in the ministry of *diakonia*: Pheobe and Priscilla are honored in Paul's letters; Stephen, Philip, and five others oversee the distribution of food within the church in Jerusalem; St. Lawrence, one of the seven deacons of the church in Rome was responsible for the church's treasury, and lost his head to Emperor Valerian when he refused to bring the "treasure" of the church and rather brought a collection of orphans, lepers, and beggars before the tyrant.

Although this ministry has taken different forms throughout the church's history - and many different names - its emphasis has been clear.

Those called to the ministry of word and service speak God's word to the world, and in turn they advocate for the needs of God's world to the church. They give leadership to the church's mission to witness to God's love through both words and actions. They embody Jesus' ministry of service as they work to empower their communities in faith and mutuality.

Today we recognize Ministers of Word and Service in the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Invitation for ministers of word and service to stand

Bishop Gonja:

Having been called to the ministry of word and service, having been consecrated or commissioned to this ministry, we affirm that they are included on the roster of those ordained as ministers of word and service.

You have been called as ministers of word and service to give leadership in the church's mission, to proclaim the gospel through word and deed, and we acknowledge your diligence as faithful witnesses as we continue to entrust you with the ministry of word and service in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and prayer.

Invitation for ministers of word and service to kneel and un-mute

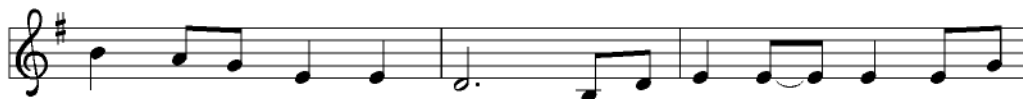
Invitation for the assembly to extend a hand in blessing and prayer

Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask:

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Will you continue to accept this ministry believing that you are called by God to serve faithfully as ministers of word and service?

I will, and I ask God to help me

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America confesses that the holy scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of this faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures.

Will you therefore continue to serve in accordance with the holy scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you continue to be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace?

Will you pray for God's people, encourage and support them as they worship and grow in faith, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give faithful witness in the world through word and deed, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

Deacons are invited to stand

Pastors who serve alongside deacons in their ministry are invited to unmute and respond on behalf of the assembly.

Will you, assembled as the people of God, continue to receive these deacons as ministers of word and service, sent by God to serve all people in Christ's name?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for them, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Dear ministers of word and service, continue to care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence. Serve the needy, care for the sick, comfort the distressed, and, through words and actions, witness faithfully to God's love for all people. Cross every barrier that stands between the church and its ministry in the world. Seek out those places where the gospel of Jesus Christ meets the world's need. Empower, equip, and support all the baptized in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Lead us all in proclaiming the gospel in word and song, in witness and service. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Deacons are invited to put on their stoles

Wear the stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Let it be acclaimed that these individuals are ministers of word and service in the church of Christ, together with all who are set apart and ordained to this ministry: deacons who are called to serve among God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Amen - Thanks be to God!

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* - ELW #836

Please join in singing - printed on the next page

Ave Vocal Ensemble, Augustana LC, Denver, CO: Emily Murdock - soprano, Leslie Remmert Soich - alto, Blake Nawa`a - tenor, and Paul Griggsby - bass with Tim Libby, band director at Cherry Creek High School on Trumpet.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Offering

*Our offering today will be shared between Betela Seminary in Madagascar and the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund. The instructions for giving can be found on page 4. **Thank you for your generosity!***

Prayers of the People

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

The bids for each petition will be sung by Dave and Nellie Jarvis, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.

You are invited to offer specific petitions and prayers using the Zoom Chat

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we entrust you with all our prayers.

Amen

Sending Litany: Church Becoming

We are Church.

We are Christ's Church.

We are Christ's Church together.

We are Christ's Church better together,

We are Christ's Church; better together,
in our life with one another;

Better Together,

with fellow members of Christ's Body;

Better Together,

with our neighbors of other faiths;

Better Together,

with our local communities and global family.

We are Christ's Church.

We are Christ's Church, better together.

We are Christ's Church,
Church Becoming,
Becoming more fully what the Spirit needs us to be,
For the sake of our journey of faith together;
Becoming more fully what the Spirit needs us to be,
For the sake of our witness to God's endless love;
Becoming more fully what the Spirit needs us to be,
For the sake of our calling to embody Christ's presence;
Becoming more fully what the Spirit needs us to be,
For the sake of the world.

We are Christ's Church,
Christ's Church, Better together.
We are Christ's Church,
Christ's Church Becoming.

We are Church Becoming,
not in spite of our imperfections, but because of them.
We are Church Becoming,
not aside from our challenges, but through them.
We are Church Becoming,
not immune from pain and suffering, but shaped by them.

We are Christ's Church
Christ's Church Becoming,
We are Church Becoming
thanks to God's grace.
in the love of Christ crucified, risen and living.
through the Spirit's power to fashion us anew.

We are Christ's Church,
Christ's Church Becoming
Becoming even today,
in this very moment;
rooted in what has been,
in order to bear fruit for tomorrow;
surrounded by the saints of all time and place,
that we may be the church for our generation and beyond.

We are Christ's Church;
Christ's Church, Better Together.
We are Christ's Church;
Church Becoming.
All for love's sake.
All for the life of God's beloved world. AMEN

Bishop's Sending

Sending Hymn: One With All in Christ

Chorus:

Sing out sisters, all are free; tell the brothers, come and see.
Spirit calling, all to be, one with all in Christ.

verse 1:

Miriam sings, honor she brings; calling with rhythm and dance.
Deborah leads, courage she seeds, blessings received as she stands.
Here we stand.
Sing out sisters, all are free; tell the brothers, come and see.
Spirit calling, all to be, one with all in Christ.

verse 2:

Our sister Ruth speaks of the truth that God breaks all borders in time.
Sisters still bring news of the King, risen in glory God shines.
Now's the time.
Sing out sisters, all are free; tell the brothers, come and see.
Spirit calling, all to be, one with all in Christ.

verse 3:

Some have been told, not to be bold, but hearts have been opened to see.
Spirit abides, and now resides in freedom and liberty.
Come and see.
Sing out siblings, all are free; everyone, come and see.
Spirit calling, all to be, one with all in Christ.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Worship Resources:

Opening and Lectionary created using "We Are Church, We Are Called, 50-40-10" [ELCA.org/50yearsof ordained women](https://www.elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen)

Augsburg Fortress/1517 Media License #SB158327 - a ministry of publishing of the ELCA.

One License #S-920915 - One License, LLC 7343 S. Mason Ave. Chicago, IL 60638

New Revised Stand Version Bible, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United State of America. Use by permission.

One with All in Christ - a song to commemorate 50 / 40 / 10

words and music by Aimée and Joel Pakan

© 2020 Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA / [tangledblue.com](https://www.tangledblue.com)



Thanks be to God for You

