

DIMENSIONS OF GROWTH

An ALL CHURCH RETREAT for FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WORCESTER

▶▶▶ June 6, 2010

Grotonwood Camp and Retreat Center

MORNING WORSHIP — 11:00 AM

Please silence all electronic devices.

MEDLEY OF SONGS

David Story

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Galatians 3:26-28)

Leader: In Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized in to Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

People: There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

***WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

and Where there is sadness, joy.

O DIVINE MASTER, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive—

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Sung Response: 740 *The Lord's Prayer*

Malotte/Hustad
(Continued)

THEME INTERPRETATION

DRAMATIC READING (Matthew 15:21-28)

Narrator: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting,

Women: *Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon!*

Narrator: But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying,

Men: *Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us!*

Narrator: He answered,

Man: *I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

Narrator: But she came and knelt before him, saying,

Women: *Lord, help me!*

Narrator: He answered,

Man: *It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.*

Narrator: She said,

Women: *Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.*

Narrator: Then Jesus answered her,

Man: *Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.*

Narrator: And her daughter was healed instantly.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 10: 9-15

MUSIC *Draw the Circle Wide*

Mark Miller

SERMON *Drawing the Circle Wide*

Thomas R. McKibbens

***COMMUNION HYMN** *All Are Welcome* (vv. 5, 6)

Marty Haugen
b. 1950

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

THE SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

The Passing of the Bread and Wine

The Passing of the Peace

Please return to your seats during the "Passing of the Peace".

***HYMN** 393 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (4 stanzas)

Dennis

***UNISON PRAYER**

Thomas Merton
1915-1968

O God, You have made us one with you. You have taught us that if we are open to one another, you dwell in us. Help us to preserve this openness and to fight for it with all our hearts. Help us to realize that there can be no understanding where there is mutual rejection. O God, in accepting one another wholeheartedly, fully, completely, we accept you, and we thank you, and we adore you, and we love you with our whole being, because our spirit is rooted in your spirit. Fill us then with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways, united in this one spirit which makes you present in the world, and which makes you witness to the ultimate reality that is love. Love has overcome. Love is victorious.

***BENEDICTION**

***ALLELUIA**

**Those who are able may stand.*

William Ness, Minister of Music & Arts

CCLI #2763143

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