

The Presbyterian Church of Okemos
February 11, 2024
Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday



Preparation: “African-American spirituals all contain elements of jazz and the blues. This is music that expresses longing, separation, isolation. The gospel impulse is there too—the belief that life’s burdens can be transformed into hope.... This music offers gospel hope—a way out of slavery, a way out of oppression for all people, a healing, a wholeness, the joy of baptism, belonging, and knowing that one is beloved. These musicians know instinctively what St. Augustine explicitly preached: "If you believe something different from the rest of the world, if you hope for something different, love something different—then you should prove it by your life, demonstrate it by your actions." --Craig Werner, *A Change Is Gonna Come: Music, Race, and the Soul of America*, 1998

Prelude

Jump for Joy

Duke Ellington

The Arlene McDaniel Trio

Arlene McDaniel, piano and bandleader

Hank Horton, bass

Ian LeVine, drums

Guest Musicians

Diego Rivera, saxophone

Tiffany Gridiron, vocals

Invitation to our Shared Ministry

Pastor Lisa Schrott

*** Call to Worship**

Rebecca Mattern

One: It is God who gathers us here. It is not our denomination that gathers us, or our church staff or family, or our political parties.

All: It is God who gathers us here.

One: We find ourselves on the mountain this Transfiguration Day,

All: witnessing a last flash of glory before a forty-day journey.

One: It is not about us.

All: It is all about Jesus Christ.

One: From the river Jordan to this place, it is all about Jesus Christ.

All: From Ash Wednesday toward Easter, it is all about Jesus Christ. Let us worship God!

*** Hymn #835**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee, vs. 1-3

[Closer Walk]

(Jazz interlude between vs. 2 & 3)

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: God alone is righteous; God alone is perfect; God alone is judge. Yet this holy, righteous God comes to us in love, to save us. Rejoicing in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

All: God of all glory, beauty, and grace, we have tried to hide from you— to hide our faces, to hide our sin—yet you have never hidden your love for us. We have tried to search for

you—in temples, in clouds, on mountaintops—yet you have already revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, and transform us so that our lives may shine with your glory, beauty, and grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Promise of the Gospel and Passing of the Peace

Pastor Lisa Schrott

One: Our God comes and does not keep silence; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved child. This is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: As a forgiven people, let us greet each other, sharing the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. *Please greet your fellow worshippers in ways you feel comfortable.*

*** Jazz Response**

Peace

Horace Silver

A Time for Children

Rebecca Mattern

Scripture

Mark 9:2-10

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

Sermon

The Difference Heaven Makes

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

Jazz Anthem

Heaven

Duke Ellington

Offering

Rebecca Mattern

Invitation

Offertory

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Lisa Schrott

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rebecca Mattern

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give both thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer "...forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..."

Breaking of the Bread

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion Prayer

Pastor Lisa Schrott

Communion Song

Amazing Grace

*** Hymn**

Down by the Riverside
(Jazz interlude between vs. 2 & 3)

African American Spiritual

1. I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the
riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the
riverside
Down by the riverside (*Refrain*)

Refrain: Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't
gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna
study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna
study war no more

2. I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down
by the riverside
Down by the riverside (*Refrain*)

3. I'm gonna talk with the Prince of Peace, down
by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
I'm gonna talk with the Prince of Peace, down by
the riverside
Down by the riverside (*Refrain*)

4. I'm gonna shake hands around the world,
down by the riverside
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside
I'm gonna shake hands around the world, down
by the riverside
Down by the riverside (*Refrain*)

*** Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson

Postlude

Take the A Train

Billy Strayhorn

** Please rise in body or spirit*

Education Time: Join us for a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall following the Jazz Sunday service. Sponsored by the Parish Life Committee. Thanks to all working in the kitchen and to Edward Ennen for taking care of the coffee.

Flowers: The flowers beautifying our sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Chris Doemel by Marlene Brewbaker.

Ushers: Bill & Barbara Given, Michele Arbour

Ash Wednesday, February 14: Worship service with imposition of ashes at 7:00 p.m. Imposition of ashes 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. in the Circle Drive.

Next Week: February 18, 2024 First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 9:1-6, 10-17

Adult Education Time: Meeting Your Neighbor part 2: Advocacy, Allyship, and Activism and LGBTQIA+ 101

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Presbyterian Church of Okemos

Jazz Sunday

February 11, 2024

Jazz Notes:

The jazz selections for this morning's service highlight the music of the legendary American composer, pianist, and band leader Duke Ellington. Although Ellington talked more openly about religion during the last decade of life, his music reflected his spirituality throughout his career. Ellington scholar David Berger wrote, "He was a very spiritual man, but his music is an expression of all sides of Duke Ellington. He didn't compartmentalize. That's the beauty of his music. In his sacred music there is the profane. And in his profane music there is the sacred."

In the summer of 1941, Ellington staged what he described as "the first 'social significance' show", *Jump for Joy*. It was an all-black musical review that Ellington said "would take Uncle Tom out of the theater and say things that would make the audience think." The Ellington orchestra played in the pit as African American performers spoke, danced, and joked defying the traditional stereotypes of blacks in movies and theater. It was a cultural milestone, and demonstrates how this great American composer was able to cross the racial and aesthetic boundaries of his time. This morning's jazz prelude "*Jump for Joy*" is the musical's title song.

In the last years of his life between 1965 and 1973, Ellington wrote three massive sacred works that combined jazz, classical music, choral music, spirituals, gospel, blues, and dance. He called them "sacred concerts" and considered them "the most important things I have ever done." The jazz anthem "Heaven" is from the second sacred concert which premiered in 1968 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

The offertory selection "Come Sunday" was written as a part of the first movement of a suite entitled "Black, Brown, and Beige" to be performed at a Carnegie Hall concert in 1943. "Come Sunday" was originally a centerpiece for alto saxophone player Johnny Hodges. In 1958 Ellington wrote a new vocal version of this jazz standard that featured gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

This morning's postlude, "Take the A Train" was written in 1939 by Ellington's pianist Billy Strayhorn and became the signature tune for the Duke Ellington orchestra as well as the official song of New York City. The title refers to the A line of New York's subway system which ran from Brooklyn to Harlem. Although traditionally played as an instrumental number, the tune does have lyrics which speak of taking the A train to a place called Sugar Hill. Sugar Hill was the center of the Harlem Renaissance which took place between World War I and II. It was the wealthiest African American neighborhood in the country, and its stately houses and apartments were home to famous African American authors, artists, musicians, politicians, and Civil Rights activists. Sugar Hill represented the good life, a destination where Black Americans could focus on their past as well as develop a unique identity for their future.

Horace Silver was an American jazz pianist, composer, and arranger, and was among the most influential jazz musicians of his lifetime. As a composer, he led a return to melodic creativity among jazz composers. One of his most popular compositions is "Peace" first recorded in 1959. According to Silver, "I was doodling' around on the piano and it just came to me, but I also had the feeling that there was an angel standing over me impressing my mind with this beautiful melody and harmony,"