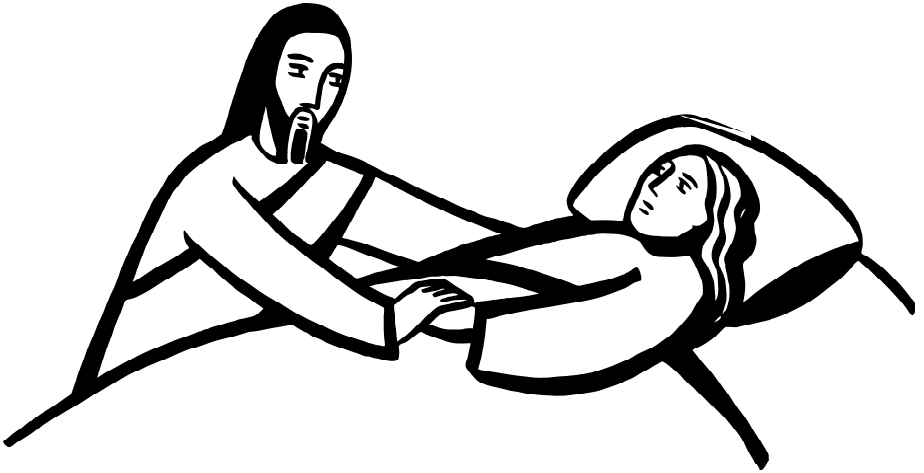

“Why I Came Out”



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Holy Redeemer MCC

February 5, 2012

Welcome Home!



Holy Redeemer MCC

FEBRUARY 5, 2012, 11 A.M.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

***CALL TO WORSHIP LECTOR THOMASINA LINDSAY**

ONE: Lift every voice and sing, 'til Earth and Heaven ring.
Ring with the harmony of liberty. We gather as a community united for justice, peace, equity, and praise.

MANY: Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. We gather to worship and honor the God of justice, peace, equity, and love. Hallelujah to the God of our salvation!

***GATHERING SONG "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"**

INSERT (VS 1-3)

COMMUNITY PRAYER

ONE: For all the joys and blessings of our lives, we give you thanks and praise; help us remember Your greatness and Your goodness. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For God's people throughout the world; help us remember Your Church. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed, and those in prison; help us reach out to those in any need or trouble. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For those suffering from pain, mental or physical disease, and the bereaved; guide us that we may be a source of comfort. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For the children, the elderly, and all who are helpless; help us demonstrate compassion and empathy. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: For all those persons and circumstances weighing heavy in our hearts; we pray that you grant healing, deliverance, and resolution. In Your mercy

MANY: Lord hear our prayer.

ONE: Oh Lord, You lift up our hearts. We lift up to You our prayers and our praise!

RESPONSIVE KYRIE

ONE: LORD, HAVE MERCY

MANY: LORD, HAVE MERCY

ONE: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

MANY: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY

ONE: LORD, HAVE MERCY

MANY: LORD, HAVE MERCY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER HYMN "LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING"

#400 (2X)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH 40: 21-31

MARK 1: 29-39

***SONG OF PREPARATION** "OUR GOD IS LIKE AN EAGLE"

INSERT (VS 1-4)

SERMON "WHY I CAME OUT" **REV. DAVID K. NORTH**

***SONG OF INVITATION** "PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND"

#670 (VS 1-3)

OFFERTORY

NOTE: Checks may be made payable to "Holy Redeemer MCC" or "HRMCC"

A word about communion. We serve an open communion here at HRMCC. That is, you need not be a member of this church or of our denomination to participate. We follow the practice of our denomination in offering a brief prayer of thanksgiving and blessing with you as you are served. We serve unfermented grape juice to honor any who might be in recovery. If you are unable to come to the table, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you at your seat. Please use the time while others are served as a time of prayer and reflection.

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING (Public Domain)**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:

DEACON JIM RABER

CONFESSION

INVITATION

ONE: JESUS, OUR SAVIOR HAS DECLARED THAT WHOSOEVER WILL, LET THEM COME. WHATEVER YOUR FAITH TRADITION MAY BE, PLEASE KNOW THAT HERE, YOU ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE CHRIST COMPLETELY IN THIS CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION.

BEFORE WE SHARE IN THIS FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP, IT IS RIGHT THAT WE MAKE PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER., AND MAKE OUR CONFESSION TO GOD.

MANY: Most merciful God, You know the secrets of my heart. I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. There are many things I have done, and many things I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, and I have not loved my neighbor

as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent. I acknowledge Your abundant grace and unconditional love for me. Have mercy on me and forgive me; as I strive to live in Your will and abide in Your ways, to the glory of Your name. Amen.

ONE: Almighty God grants us mercy, forgives us of all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keeps us in eternal life.

MANY: Through Christ we are renewed.

Through Christ we are reconciled.

Through Christ we are redeemed!

THE PEACE

ONE: THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE ALWAYS WITH YOU.

MANY: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

**(The Ministers and People may share the Peace of the Lord with one another.)*

HOLY COMMUNION

ONE: GOD BE WITH YOU!

MANY: AND ALSO WITH YOU!

ONE: LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS!

MANY: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD!

ONE: LET US GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE

MANY: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE!

ONE: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. . .

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

MANY: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

ONE: Long ago, on the night Jesus gathered with his friends . . . * * *

(Words of Remembrance)

Let us pray. Pour out your Spirit upon these simple gifts of bread and cup. As we receive them, fill us, transform us, and be in us that we may be like you, a living sacrifice. Make us to be for the world the very body of Christ. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world! Amen.

Let us declare the mystery of our faith!

MANY: Christ has died.

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

ONE: The Gifts of God for the people of God!

(PLEASE FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS
OF THE USHER)

Communion Hymns

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

#480

“Take Time To Be Holy”

#672

“Oh, Freedom”

Insert

***Closing Hymn** “ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME”

#79 (vs 1-4)

Benediction

Postlude



Please join us in the Community Room adjacent to the sanctuary for refreshments and good conversation following the service.

*Please stand, as you are able.

How are we doing?

Attendance last Sunday	26
Average attendance for the year 2011	24
Weekly Budget (General Fund)	\$1,600.00
Offering last week (General Fund)	\$802.00
Over (under) budgeted income for the year(2011)	TBA
Building Fund	\$125.00

***NOTE:** The Building Fund offering is normally taken only on the last Sunday of each month.

Other News

- † **Sunday Weekly Fellowship Brunch**—Each Sunday, after church and fellowship time, we share an opportunity for extended fellowship by going to a nearby restaurant for brunch. It’s a great way to get to know each other better. Please feel free to join us. **Next Sunday, let’s go to**
- † **Wednesday Evening Bible Study**—Each Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm. Topics ranging from Bible Basics to challenging theological and ethical issues relevant to today. All are welcome.
- † **Welcome to B. E. (Beltway Expressions)**—1st Fridays, at 7:30-9:30 pm. Open Mic on the first Friday evening of each month. Come share a poem, a song, a joke, an affirmation, a story, etc.
- † **HRMCC Ensemble**—If you’d like to participate, please contact Janina Sajka or Rev. North for more information.
- † **Join Us On Facebook**— “holy redeemer mcc church”. Send a “Friend Request” to get all the news and access the Sunday Sermon.

Next Sunday’s Biblical Readings: (Epiphany 6: Year B)

2 Kings 5: 1-14

Psalms 30

1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

Mark 1: 40-45

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

New Directory of Members and Regular Attenders—

When you get to church, be sure and fill out the informational form that has been prepared for you to share whatever information you're willing to have in the directory. David York will also be taking photos of individuals, couples, families, and church auxiliaries. Forms are still available.

Offering Envelope Boxes Now Available!—Be sure to receive your box of 2012 Offering Envelopes. **Thank you for your commitment to support the continued ministry of HRMCC.**

Wednesday Evening Bible Study—We begin the year with a four week session on Bible Basics. Studies will include biblical chronology, history, geography, and more. Class runs from 7:00-8:30p.m. (If you're coming after work, the nearby deli serves dinner.)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



ELIZABETH JENNINGS—2/4 KEN WILLIAMS—2/5

THOMASINA LINDSAY—2/18 PATRICK COLBERT—2/20

Don't see your birthday? Be sure to let us know when it is by filling in the information on the roster on the table in our Community Room where you picked up your bulletin. We'd like to celebrate you too!



Isaiah 40: 21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1: 29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is why I came out.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Why I Came Out

Whether or not we choose to believe it, we each have a calling, a purpose for being. Few people want to acknowledge or face the possibilities of the bigger picture, because they're so overwhelmed with the complexities and hassles of their own lives. We observe the whirl of current world events and wonder to what extent, if any, will our lives make a difference? Indeed, it is the bane of our days to eek out an existence, striving for some measure of quality, enjoyment, and value to our lives. It is not surprising that our daily focus becomes inundated with safety, security, and survival. And yet, there is so much more to life. So many opportunities present themselves to us each day; opportunities that can influence the substance and worth of not only our days, but the days and lives of countless others. We must recognize that history is made and shaped by *individuals*; it always has, and always will be. Somehow, it has been those persons who rose above the fray, and claimed their *clarity of calling* and *focus of faithfulness* that found meaning and value to their lives. Somehow, we need to move beyond just existing, and get out and do the business of living and being.

In the above text, Jesus faced a personal crisis. He was being torn by two callings; a ministry of healing and a ministry of spreading the gospel message. His preaching ministry was being overwhelmed and minimized by his healing ministry. The community of Capernaum had him pigeon-holed. Crowds were arriving from far and wide to see the healer Jesus put on a show. Jesus knew that his charge was bigger than that. He had to come out of Capernaum and shake off the labels and type-casting. Everybody else was monopolizing, manipulating, and managing Jesus' life for their own convenience. Jesus went out early in the morning to pray, and regain his clarity of calling. He realized that living at the whim of the crowds, family, and friends wasn't cutting it. There was a message of hope and power that he was called to convey above and beyond the temporal cares that healing addressed.

Jesus knew that what people REALLY needed was a right relationship with God. They needed to reconnect to the provisions and promises of God. I remember a preacher once saying that there are too many folks standing on the premises and not enough folks standing on the promises! Jesus is calling us to do more than just take up space. Jesus wants us to know that true and complete healing, as well as purpose for living is found in the promises of God.

The Isaiah passage potently spells out many of God's promises, accentuated by the verb "shall", denoting necessity, surety, and inevitability. The reason we too can come out of our "Capernaums" is so that we may claim and experience the promises of God. With strength renewed, we soar; we go boldly through our lives **with God with us!**

Papa David

About our Church

WHO ARE WE? Holy Redeemer M.C.C. is a Christian church with a welcoming ministry to all individuals regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, or ethnic heritage. We celebrate our God-given diversity, and gather to worship God and serve our community. Our vision is “striving to meet human need in the name of Jesus Christ.”

As a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (www.mccchurch.org), we proclaim God's love for all persons, participate in a ministry of social justice, and advocate the human rights of all persons.

If you have been seeking an inclusive church home, we would love to have you join us regularly for worship and service to the community.

NEED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PASTOR? Appointments with the pastor are available by appointment. If you would like an appointment, please let the Pastor know and he will schedule one for you.

MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR: Rev. David K. North

DEACON: Jim Raber

MUSIC COORDINATOR: Janina Sajka

WORSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR: Autumn Snell

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Rev. David K. North, Moderator, Thomasina Lindsay, Sue McLean, Fred Simms, Robin Thomas, Chantay Mahogany

HOSPITALITY COORDINATION: Eric Simpson

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TEAM: Dayne Heyler, Roy Link, Jim Raber, Gerry Wright

LECTORS: Dayne Heyler, Roy Link, Sue McLean, Eric Simpson, Fred Simms, Gerry Wright, Autumn Snell, Robin Thomas

USHER-HOSTS: Eric Simpson, David York, Sue McLean

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