

2024 CFT Gathering

*Celebrating Sophia*  
**Worship**



"Although She is one, She does all things. Without leaving Herself She renews all things. Generation after generation She slips into holy souls, making them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves none more than they who dwell with Wisdom."

Wisdom of Solomon 7:27-28

(translation by Rabbi Rami Shapiro in *The Divine Feminine in Biblical Wisdom Literature*)

*June 23, 2024, 10:00 am*

# Worship Program

## *Piano Prelude*

John Saxon, piano improvisation

## *Call to Worship*

Rev. Canon Rhondda MacKay

## *Hymn – “Come, Christ-Sophia, Come”*

Words by Rev. Dr. Jann Aldredge-Clanton

## *Prayer for the People – Come, Christ-Sophia, Come*

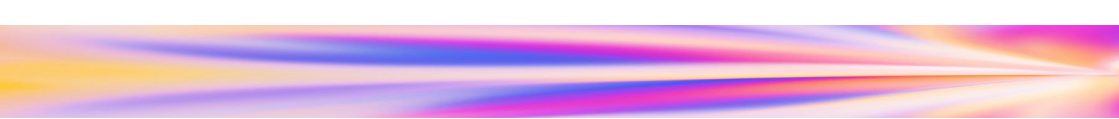
Rev. Dr. Leslie Harrison

Leader: It is in the writings of the ancient prophet Isaiah that we are introduced to your gifts. Your gifts are the fruits that come from the branch and shoot of the root of Jesse. Your gifts, that come from the Messiah, enable us, as the body of Christ, to strengthen the will of all people to live in peace and charity. Yet as this world is shadowed by dread, destruction, delusion, desolation, and depression, we yearn to see the hope that you bring. So, we ask...

### **Congregation: Come, Christ-Sophia, come.**

Leader: Christ-Sophia, we need your wisdom. We need you to bring forth in our hearts the power to discern and the willingness to act upon the discernment. We need you to bring experiences into our lives that will enable us to better bring light and love together in a complementary way so that perfection may be attained. So, we ask...

### **Congregation: Come, Christ-Sophia, come bring us the power of wisdom.**



Leader: Christ-Sophia, we lack the understanding to relate truth to supernatural purpose. For the ways of Godde are not our ways, asking for our knowledge to be filtered through your awesomeness, greatness, and faithfulness, which flows throughout creation. So, we ask...

**Congregation: Come, Christ-Sophia, come bring us the power to discern and trust the knowledge you have given us.**

Leader: Christ-Sophia, we pray for righteousness. We pray that Godde will be visible in our actions. We recognize that Godde is Godde without the help of humanity. We recognize Godde's righteousness is upon us as we live humbly and seek justice. We know that our relationship with you is a tightly-knit bond that strengthens us in our dealings with others during moments of celebration as well as moments of profound desolation, So, we ask...

**Congregation: Come, Christ-Sophia, come bring us the power of righteousness.**

Leader: Christ-Sophia, we pray that the fear of Godde will be our strength. Not the fear that causes us to cower down with lowliness but the fear that causes us to shudder with wonder and expectation. We know what Godde has proclaimed shall continue to occur, what and who Godde has redeemed is redeemed indeed, and that Godde has plans for us to return in our hearts and minds to a place of serenity. So, we ask...

**Congregation: Come, Christ-Sophia, come bring us power to move forward through our fear of Godde.**

Leader: Christ-Sophia, as we worship together and when we leave this space, let us hear the words of Thomas Aquinas. Let us use the gift of wisdom to bring forth charity. Let us use the gift of understanding to increase our faith. Let us use the gift of counsel and righteous judgment to increase carefulness to listen intentionally to

those who are suffering. Let us use the gift of fortitude to increase our courage and steadfastness. Let us use the gift of the fear of Godde to increase our hope for and need to bring about justice.

**ALL: Come, Christ-Sophia, come with your quickening power.**

**Free us to live so that we may be used by Godde to help those wandering and seeking the peace which passes all understanding. Help us to use our gifts to increase the faith. Help us to remember that you are always an ever-present help in our time of need.**

**Come, Christ-Sophia, come.**

### *Passing of the Peace*

#### *Reading – Wisdom of Solomon 7:21-30 (CEB)*

I now know everything, visible and hidden, for Wisdom, the designer of everything that is, has taught me. Her spirit is insightful, holy, unique, diverse, refined, kinetic, pure, spotless, transparent, harmless, delighting in what is good, sharp, unstoppable, overflowing with kindness, delighting in humans, steadfast, secure, not anxious, all-powerful, and all-seeing. Her spirit can be found in every spirit that is perceptive, pure, and refined. Wisdom is more mobile than anything that moves. She pervades and embraces everything because she is so pure. Wisdom is the warm breath of God's power. She pours forth from the all-powerful one's pure glory. Therefore, nothing impure can enter her. She's the brightness that shines forth from eternal light. She's a mirror that flawlessly reflects God's activity. She's the perfect image of God's goodness. She can do anything, since she's one and undivided. She never changes, and yet she makes everything new. Generation after generation, she enters souls and shapes them into God's friends and prophets. God doesn't love anything as much as

people who make their home with Wisdom. She's more splendid than the sun and more wonderful than the arrangement of the stars. She's even brighter than sunlight, for night follows day, but evil can never overcome Wisdom.

## *Sermon – “Love and Agency in the Divine Feminine”*

Rev. Janene Cates Putman

## *Hymn – “Behold Shekhinah Leading”*

Words by Rev. Dr. Jann Aldredge-Clanton

## *Communion Liturgy*

Rev. Claire Beutler-Cruise

One: This is a joyful feast of the people created in the Wisdom of Godde. This feast we celebrate is for every one: sisters, brothers, siblings, all. Whoever you are, wherever you've been, wherever you are on your life journey—you are welcome here!

**ALL: We come to bring our strengths and our burdens; our achievements and our regrets, our joy and our anxieties. We bring our wholeness and our brokenness, our faith and our doubt, our hunger for justice and our anger for injustice. Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer knows who we are and welcomes us just as we are, binding us in love.**

One: Our brother, Jesus Christ sat at tables with those who had no place, and offered fulfilling food for bodies and souls. And, on the night when he would give all his love—for us—he sat at the table with extended family, just as he hosts this table, here and now, with *this* extended family. He took the bread, blessed it and gave it, saying:

**ALL: Take and eat this bread. It is my body, broken for**

**you. Whenever you gather around the table together, remember me.**

One: He took the cup, blessed it and gave it, saying:

**ALL: Take and drink from this cup, each and every one. It is a sign of the new promise from our Creator. Do this to remember me.**

One: This love is poured out for all people.

**ALL: Pour out your Spirit upon us now. Pour out your transforming presence on this bread and this cup. May they be for us your new life and love, uniting us—sisters, brothers, siblings, all—for the sake of loving the world. Amen.**

One: This table extends beyond this physical space and into the space of the Spirit who unites us. May this meal make us ready to love, trust, hope and dance to the beat of Christ-Sophia's heart. Come, all of you, for all are welcome.

## *Sharing Communion*

Rev. Claire Beutler-Cruise and Rev. Dr. Fran Mayes

*Please come forward if you are able (or we'll come to you).  
We have grape juice and gluten-free bread. Music by John Saxon.*

## *Communion Blessing*

One: Let us pray:

**ALL: Life-giving Creator, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. Bless us with your presence in our continuing life journeys. Bless**

**our eyes to see beyond the expected; our ears to hear  
below the words; our minds to explore the wonder;  
our hearts to hold the mystery. Bless us as we grow into  
family, and bless the companions we have yet to meet.  
Remind us that from the beginning, we are Beloved.  
Amen.**

*Liturgy adapted from EEWC-CFT Gathering Worship, June 24, 2012, and  
from Redeemer UCC Worship, Sussex, WI, May 5, 2024.*

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving and Offering*

Rev. Dr. Gail Ricciuti

## *Offertory Solo – Somewhere Over the Rainbow*

Tiana Marquez accompanied by John Saxon

## *Reading – Odes of Solomon #6*

A stream went forth, (and) it became a river great and broad.  
It swept away everything along with it and turned toward the Temple.  
They could not restrain it by the dams and the places they built,  
nor were those who restrain water able to restrain it by their skills.  
It was brought over the whole earth, and it encompassed everything.  
Those who were on the dry sand drank;  
their thirst was relieved and quenched  
when they were given the drink from the Most High.  
Blessed are the ministers of that drink,  
those who have been entrusted with the Lord's water.  
They have refreshed parched lips,  
and those who were weak received heartfelt joy.  
They have held back souls that had breathed their last so they would not  
die.

They have set upright limbs that had fallen.  
They have given strength to their <coming> and light to their eyes.  
For all of them have known themselves in the Lord,  
and they were saved by water of eternal life.

Translation Mark M. Mattison and Samuel Zinner, *The Odes of Solomon: The Nuhra Version*, [www.nuhra.net/nuhra-2021/](http://www.nuhra.net/nuhra-2021/)

## Hymn – “Sophia Wisdom Is Calling”

Words by Rev. Dr. Jann Aldredge-Clanton

### Praying Together – Lord’s Prayer

(adapted from the New Zealand Prayer Book)

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Parent of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is Heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!  
Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and  
    come on Earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is not loving, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### Closing Blessing

Rev. Dr. Gail Ricciuti





Participating in today's worship service:

Rev. Claire Beutler-Cruise — Communion

Rev. Dr. Leslie Robin Harrison — Readings and Litany

Rev. Canon Rhondda MacKay — Call to Worship

Tiana Marquez — Offertory Solo

Rev. Janene Cates Putman — Sermon

Rev. Gail Ricciuti — Offering, Communion, Benediction

John Saxon — Piano

Lē Isaac Weaver — Program Design and Planning