

# SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER: A SERVICE OF HEALING AND RENEWAL

## SIGMA 2

In Partial Fulfillment of requirements for the Course DWS 704 P: Doctoral Practicum  
704

*"Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters.  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, take your choice of wine or milk--  
It's all free!"*

*Isaiah 55:1*

## THE GATHERING

### ***Is He Worthy?***

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(Rod Ellis, Woodburn Baptist Church, Woodburn, KY Worship Team)

Call to Worship:

Juliana: Let's come and worship the Lord, for his love reaches to the heavens,  
his faithfulness to the skies.

**All: O Lord our God, we trust in your unfailing love,  
our hearts rejoice in your salvation.**

Juliana: Bless the Lord, o my soul and forget not all his benefits,  
Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

**All: "Behold, God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the Lord God is our strength and our song,  
and he has become our salvation."**

Juliana: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

-- based on Ps 36:5; 13:5; 103:2-4; Isa 12:2-3 (ESV)

(Juliana Kam)

## **Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)**

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(Rod Ellis, Woodburn Baptist Church, Woodburn KY Worship Team)

## **Confession**

Assurance of God's Grace

(David Hartkopf)

## **Kyrie**

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(Bob Johnson, Church of the Ascension, Orlando FL Worship Team)

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

### **Speak O Lord**

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(Brett Pardue, Rolesville Baptist Church, Rolesville, NC Worship Team)

First Testament Lesson: Isaiah 53:1-7; 61:1-3

*Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.*

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.*

(Heather Li Ip, David Hartkopf, Sasha Chen, Juliana Kam, John Chao)

## **Psalm 42**

Words: adapted from Psalm 42:1-3 Music: Martin Nystrom, © 1984 Integrity's Hosanna! Music • Mason Ballard, © 2021 Mason Ballard • Used by permission

(Mason Ballard)

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:25-30

*At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

*"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

(Sasha Chen)

The Message: Imaginative Hope

(Troy Ogle)

The Nicene Creed

(John Chao)

## **The Prayers of the People**

Heather: O God, our Living Water, and Refuge in the Storm, we lament before you the brokenness of our world, our community, our church, and ourselves. We claim your promise to be with us.

David: How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?

Heather: For many parts of the world, the coronavirus is a more fearsome threat than ever. The Pandemic has triggered extensive emotional, physical, and economic concerns around the world. It has intensified conflicts, inequality, famine, drought and flood. We have been deeply troubled!

David: How long will you hide your face from us, Lord?

**All: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Heather: Locally, the Pandemic has grieved us with unemployment, loss of business, isolation, public health, and worries about livelihoods.

Sasha: People ask: Where is your God? Why have you forgotten us, God? Why do we go mourning because of the oppression of the circumstances?

**All: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Heather: For the Church, our pastors are exhausted with new modes of services, and new ways of keeping in touch with members. Congregants are frustrated with gathering digitally, singing by themselves, and passing the peace to nobody.

John: Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever!  
All: Lord, have mercy on us.

Heather: For ourselves, we juggle work, families, studies, ministries, and relationships. Our strength has been brought low, and we know not what the future holds. In our bodies, there is pain; in our souls, anxiety and unrest.

Juliana: Why do you hide your face, Lord? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?

**All: Lord, have mercy on us.**

Heather:

O Lord, we have felt forgotten, but we trust in your steadfast love. Forgive our iniquities and heal the broken world. Stop the spread of the virus and restore us to health. Grant wisdom to leaders of the world and people in authority, so that they make wise decisions, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

Renew within your whole church a right spirit, increase their trust in you, and help them to delight themselves in the Lord.

Touch, with your generous love, the sick, the disturbed, the damaged and the lost.

Heather: O Lord, create in us clean hearts, and flood our lives with your love, hope, and healing, in spirit, mind and body. Those who fear the Lord, praise him! For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. Our hearts shall rejoice in your salvation. We pray in the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

(Heather Li Ip, David Hartkopf, Sasha Chen, Juliana Kam, John Chao)

The Passing of the Peace

(Ben Patten)

The Offering

We encourage all worshipers to visit [www.charitywater.org](http://www.charitywater.org) and give from your heart

**Come As You Are**

Come As You Are • Words & Music: David Crowder, Ben Glover and Matt Mehr

(Rod Ellis, Woodburn Baptist Church, Woodburn KY Worship Team)

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

A Testimony of Faithfulness

(Sigma 2 Cohort)

An Invitation to Remember

(Beth Markham)

**He Will Hold Me Fast**

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(Mason Ballard, Tates Creek Christian Church Lexington, KY Worship Team)

**It Is Well with My Soul**

Words by Horatio Spafford • Music by Philip P. Bliss

(Brett Pardue, Rolesville Baptist Church, Rolesville, NC Worship Team)

## SENDING

Benediction

(Troy Ogle)

**Shall We Gather at the River**

Words & Music: Robert Lowry