

Worship Committee Meeting, March 4, 2022

Present: John Sampson, Annie Scavo, Linda Bogardus

The Worship Committee concerns itself with all aspects of the worship service. Also, we encourage any congregant to contact any committee member to share feedback or suggestions. After the minutes from our February meeting were posted on the KVCC website (where they remain available), we received some comments about the discussion, particularly about the Creation Justice banner, the length of the time of prayer, the new Celtic cross, the offertory, and the possibility of singing rather than speaking the Lord's Prayer.

We discussed the comments. The Celtic cross, which in general has been well received, will stay for the time being, and the offertory will be coming back. The coat vestibule was determined to be too small for the Creation Justice banner. Because those who had brought the issues up were absent, we put off further discussion of the banner, the general use of symbols, and singing the Lord's Prayer. During the Easter season the congregation will respond, "God in your mercy, hear our prayer" after individual prayers are offered.

John is planning the Easter services. We talked about what Easter means, what we would like the season to be, and what the Resurrection means for us. How do we prepare for this transition when dealing with the risen Christ? It was expressed that Easter is the celebration of love over darkness, of love's winning out.

For John, Easter is the moment that says yes, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection stand as the ultimate power. Even though some of Jesus' ministry had been undone during Epiphany, this stands.

The liturgy is moving to the Gospel of John. The church will hold an Easter vigil: out of the darkness of Good Friday, the Paschal candle will be lit on Easter morning, representing the Light coming back to the world. The candle will be lit at around 5 AM during a very short service in the memorial garden. This is a great expression of hope. KVCC's traditional sunrise service at the Keene transfer station will also be held.

John will be open to other events or rituals that may touch nonbelievers or people who have trouble with the idea of the risen Christ. He recognizes that our congregation comprises a broad spectrum of belief. John never preaches atonement.

After Easter we have a short time to breathe before the next events. We need to rebuild the church's membership, come back together and renew the connections that the Covid pandemic and social distancing weakened.

Submitted by Linda Bogardus