# Honouring Our Identities Service for Black History Month | Lent 1 | February 21, 2021

By: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

*(A recording of the entire service, including music, is available at* [*www.youtube.com/embed/XPSs-uOB4B8*](https://www.youtube.com/embed/XPSs-uOB4B8) *(credits below))*

## Greeting *(traditional African-American)*

God is good,

**all the time.**

All the time,

**God is good.**

## Welcome

## Acknowledging the Territory

## Call to Worship

Come and hear the good news: You are God’s beloved.

With you God is well pleased. Even if you are not perfect!

You are God’s beloved.

God has given the rainbow as a sign;

God has promised to be with all of creation, no matter what.

So come.

In confidence and hope, come, let us worship God.

## Opening Prayer

God of creation and covenant, of rainbows and resurrection,

You love all of creation,

and you have promised to love us.

Not even the clouds of our carelessness or the floods of our fears

can get in the way of

your radiant, radical redemption.

Be with us now,

as we gather to praise you, source of the love and beauty that is in us, and others.

Send your Spirit

that we might be drawn together as one, even as we honour our differences.

Give us wisdom that as the Body of Christ, we may bring healing and peace

in the world that you love so much.

Thanks be to you,

Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter.

Amen.

## Hymn

VU 708 My Lord, What a Morning *(African-American Spiritual)*

## Prayer for Illumination

O Holy Spirit, shine your brilliance

on these words of ancient scripture and on us now.

May your message for us

this day, this month, this season, this year be made known in your minds

and grown in our hearts and shown in your lives.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Scripture

Genesis 9:8‒17

Mark 1:9‒15

## Sermon

*To watch a sermon based on this text by Thérèse Samuel visit* [*www.youtube.com/embed/XPSs-uOB4B8 Y*](https://www.youtube.com/embed/XPSs-uOB4B8). *The sermon starts at about 15:40.*

## Hymn

MV 88 Over my Head *(African-American Spiritual)*

## Profession of Faith

A New Creed

## Prayers of the People

*Praying with the Psalm (based on Psalm 25:1‒5)*

*As we draw to mind all for which we are grateful this day, we pray with the psalmist:*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

*In the silence we give thanks to God*

*(silent prayer)*

*And as we draw to mind the people and places for which we pray, we continue to pray with the psalmist:*

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you

be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

*In the silence we pray for God’s healing, comfort, peace and justice.*

*(silent prayer)*

*And, with the psalmist’s words, we close with prayers for ourselves:*

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

*In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

## The Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Words)

And as a child turns to a loving caregiver who watches over them, we turn in prayer to God who is our Parent, our Mother, **Our Father…**

## Offering

God has given us all that we have and all that we are.

One way of lifting our souls to God, is to offer resources at our disposal to the sharing of God’s love, the seeking of God’s justice, and bringing peace among God’s peoples.

Whether you are using this service as your

congregation’s weekly worship service, or you are taking it in as a separate service, take this moment to honour and dedicate the gifts you offer to your church and beyond.

All of the gifts, of money, time, talents, care and compassion; gifts given in person, or by internet or telephone:

Let us dedicate our gifts as we sing

## Offering Hymn

VU 575 I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me *(African-American Spiritual)*

## Prayer of Dedication

May God receive our gifts and use them for the building of a realm

of peace and hope

that goes beyond anything

we could dream or do on our own.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

## Anthem

Lift Every Voice and Sing *(by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson)*

## Sending

Go from this time of worship with the old songs in your minds, and a new song in your hearts.

Go from this time knowing that every song you need is within you and around you.

Go into the world to bring the song that the world longs to sing.

Go, and may the everlasting song go with you,

now and always.

*(Sending by Thérèse Samuel, 2020, written for Grace United Church, Thornbury, Ontario)*

## Postlude

Maple Leaf Rag *(Scott Joplin, Public Domain)*

**Liturgy Sources**

All liturgy except where otherwise noted written by Thérèse Samuel, 2021

**Video Credits:**

Minister: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Musician: Dr. Christopher Burton

Lay Leader: Phyllis Fleming

Video and Audio Recording, Post-Production, and Editing: Rev. Thérèse Samuel

Sound: Phyllis Fleming

Special Thanks to Grace United Church, Thornbury, Ontario

―*Thérèse Samuel is an ordained minister in The United Church of Canada and member of the Black Clergy Network.*