

WHO	WHAT
Jim	Welcome to Progressive Pathways Fellowship. Glory be to those above who love us, To those you have gone before to lead us, And to the spirit and light who guides us, as always before so now and evermore. Let all the fellowship acclaim Christ the Lord be with you
Everyone	And also with you
TAPE	Down to the River to Pray
Jim	Let us pray for pardon and for peace for protection throughout the coming night and for us here as we approach the mystery of the divine. Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

INCENSE

Like burning incense, may our prayers rise up to heaven,
Hear this our prayer.
So mote it be.

Set a guard, Divine one, over my mouth,
keep watch at the door of my lips
Hear this our prayer.
So mote it be.

Let not my heart turn to things that are wrong,
To evils deeds with those who are accursed.
Hear this our prayer.
So mote it be.

Let not the oil of the wicked anoint my head.
Let my prayers be ever against their malice
Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

So will all see your mercy and your salvation and
Announce salvation from day to day
Hear this our prayer.
So mote it be.

First Reader:
Christ our Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A reading from the Prophet Nehemiah. Chapter 8.

1 all the people assembled as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which God had commanded for Israel.

2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing on the platform; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped with their faces to the ground.

7 The Levites instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear [a] and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Glory be to those above who love us,
To those you have gone before to lead us,
And to the spirit and light who guides us,
as always before so now and evermore.
Let all the fellowship acclaim.
Amen.

SECOND READER

Christ the Lord be with you.

And also with you

A reading from The Teachings of Silvanus

My children, listen to my teaching, which is good and useful, and end the sleep which weighs heavily upon you. Depart from the forgetfulness which fills you with darkness, since if you were unable to do anything, I would not have said these things to you. But Christ has come in order to give you this gift. Why do you pursue the darkness when the light is at your beck and call? Why do you drink stale water, though sweet wine is available for you? Wisdom summons you, yet you desire folly. Not by your own desire do you do these things, but it is the animal nature within you that does them.

Wisdom summons you in her goodness, saying, "Come to Me, all of you, O foolish ones, that you may receive a gift, the understanding which is good and excellent. I am giving to you a high-priestly garment which is woven from every (kind of) wisdom." What else is evil death except ignorance? What else is evil darkness except familiarity with forgetfulness? Cast your anxiety upon God alone. Do not become desirous of gold and silver, which are profitless, but clothe yourself with wisdom like a robe; put knowledge on yourself like a crown, and be seated upon a throne of perception. For these are yours, and you will receive them again on high another time.

For the foolish usually put on folly like a robe, and like a garment of sorrow, they put on shame. And they crown themselves with illiteracy, and take their seat upon a throne of ignorance.

Glory be to those above who love us,
To those you have gone before to lead us,
And to the spirit and light who guides us,
as always before so now and evermore.
Let all the fellowship acclaim.
Amen.

MUSIC

OFFERING (during music)

Let the first fruits of the harvest be gathered into the storehouse. Let those who have an offering or a contribution bring them forth for the good of the fellowship.

ORDINATION

Presenter:

Madam Chairperson. This community asks you to ordain our brother James, for service as a minister.

Chair:

Do you judge him to be prepared and willing?

Presenter:

After inquiry among the people of this fellowship and upon recommendation of those concerned with his training, I testify that he has been found willing and prepared.

Chair:

We rely on the help of the Divine, the wisdom and the spirit and the example of Jesus the Christ and we set apart our brother James for ordination as a minister.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

You are the source of all honor,

You give to each of us a ministry.

You watch over all creation and make it new.

You forsee all things in your eternal providence and make due provision for every age.

Holy and loving source of all

Look with favor on this servant of yours whom we now dedicate to the office of minister,

To labor at your holy altar and serve this fellowship.

May he excel in every virtue:

In love that is sincere,

In concern for the sick and the poor,

In unassuming authority

In self-discipline and in holiness of life.

We ask all this through Christ that lives and reigns with you and the holy spirit, forever and ever.

Let all the fellowship acclaim.

Amen.

Harriet lays hands on Jim and invites the congregation to lay hands on him as well.

MUSIC during laying on of hands

Dean:

My brother what do you ask of God and of this community.

Jim:

I ask for the grace of serving the most holy and the people of god as clergy in this fellowship.

Dean:

My Brother,

By water and the Holy Spirit you have already been consecrated to God's service. Are you resolved to unite yourself now to this fellowship through the bond of religious profession.

Jim:

I am

Dean:

Are you resolved to live in perfect love and perfect trust for the sake of your sisters and brothers, to choose a life of service and sacrifice and to faithfully follow the rule of progressive pathways fellowship?

Jim.

I am

Dean:

May almighty God grant you grace to fulfill what you resolve. Let all the fellowship acclaim. Amen.

Sisters and brothers, I would like to present to you the Rev. James William Hensley.

SERMON

MUSIC for reflection

Christ the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Caring God, we thank you for your gifts in creation: for our world, the heavens tell of your glory; for our land, its beauty and its resources, for the rich heritage we enjoy.

We pray for those who make decisions about the resources of the earth, that we may use your gifts responsibly, Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be..

We pray for those who work on the land and sea, in city and in industry that all may enjoy the fruits of their labors and marvel at your creation. Let us pray in Christ's mercy.

Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

We pray for artists, scientists and visionaries, that through their work we may see the world afresh. Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

We thank you holy one for giving us life; for all who enrich our experience.

We pray for all who through their own or others' actions are deprived of fullness of life, for prisoners, refugees, the handicapped and all who are sick.

Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

We pray for those in politics, medical science, social and relief work, and for this church and for all churches and for all who seek to bring life to others.

Hear this our prayer.

So mote it be.

For what else shall we pray?

We thank you, supreme and most high, by whose grace alone we have attained the light of your knowledge;
holy name that must be honored,
the one name by which our ancestral faith blesses you alone,
we thank you who deign to grant to all a father's fidelity, a brother's reverence and a mother's love,
along with any power that is sweeter,
by giving us the fit of consciousness, reason and understanding:
Consciousness, by which we may know you;
Reason, by which we may seek you in our dim suppositions;
Knowledge, by which we may rejoice in knowing you.
And we who are saved by your power do indeed rejoice because you have shown yourself to us. We rejoice that you have deigned to make us for eternity even while we depend on the body. For this is our only means of giving thanks: knowledge of your majesty.

Worshipping with this entire prayer that which is good, holy, merciful and just, we ask only this,
that you wish us to persist in the love of your knowledge and that we never be cut off from such a life as this.

Bless, we pray you, this memorial of love, this sacrifice of praise.
Let it become for us the bread of life and the cup of salvation.
Let it remind us of those who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith.
Let it strengthen us and build up the bonds of fellowship between us.
Let all the fellowship acclaim.
Amen.

Communion

Music during communion

Christ our lord be with you.
And also with you.

May the blessing of the light, the love of god and the inspiration of the holy spirit go with you now and remain with you always. Merry meet and merry part and merry meet again.

Blessed be.