

Augsburg Daily chapel
February 2, 2022
Commemoration of onset of Covid emergency

Welcome to Campus Ministry's Daily Chapel at Augsburg University.
We are blessed by your presence among us!

Prelude

Welcome & Invocation: Pastor Babette

These past two years have been years of loss, change, grief, uncertainty, and longing. The COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed our lives. There is no going back to the days before. Today, we gather to mark the challenges we have faced, the loved ones we've lost, and the grief we carry from these last two years. Let us begin now with a word of prayer:

God of mercy, we pray for our communities, families, loved ones, friends, and all whose lives are completely different than two years ago. For those that have lost jobs, houses, security, health, and people close to them. We know there are graced dimensions to our struggle, on our way to a new normal. We did not ask for this to happen to us. God, we ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things before you to share our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. **Amen.**

SONG: "Longing, We Gather Longing"



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Reading: Tori Remer

Isaiah 40: 1, 25-31 (from the Inclusive Bible)

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
To whom can you liken me?

Who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes and ask yourself:
 Who made these stars,
 If not the One who drills them like an army,
 Calling each by name?
 because God is so great in strength,
 so mighty in power,
 not a single one is missing.
²⁷ Why can you say,
 tribe of Leah and Rachel and Jacob,
 “My destiny is hidden from God,
 and my rights are ignored by my God?
²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard?
 God is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 This God does not faint or grow weary;
 With a depth of understanding that is unsearchable.
²⁹ God gives strength to the weary,
 and empowers the powerless.
³⁰ Young people may grow tired and weary,
 and young people may stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who wait for the God
 find a renewed power,
 they soar on eagles wings,
 They run and do not grow weary,
 they walk and never tire.

Prayer/Reading: Fardosa Hassan

SONG: Pour Out Your Heart (verses 1, 2)



1. Pour out your heart in - to the Heal - ing Bowl of Prayers.
 2. Pour out your sor - row. Let us share each oth - er's pain.



Pour it out like wa - ter. Pour it out like rain. Pour out your heart in - to the
 Pour it out like wa - ter. Pour it out like rain. Pour out your sor - row. Let us



Heal - ing Bowl of Prayers. Just pour, pour out your heart.
 share each oth - er's pain. Just pour, pour out your heart.

Ritual Action Lighting of Candles (*piano throughout it*)

Pastor John: We light these candles to remember what has changed, who we have lost, and reflect on the challenges of these last two years.

Today, the *reported* death toll worldwide approaches six million. Six million lives, six million stories, six million names. Each candle we light shines for one million lives lost to this virus. We cannot comprehend this scale of human suffering, but we trust that our Creator holds each of these beloved children in love, even as we continue to grieve the ongoing suffering, death, and disruption that COVID continues to cause.

Tori: We gather together to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of jobs and safety, the loss of health, the loss of joy and peace in our lives, and the loss of relationships, friendships, and connection, that we've experienced from this pandemic. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss.** (candle is lit; space for silence)

Pastor John: We turn our hearts to the Divine. Creator, you are with us in all times and places, teach us to be patient with the transformation of our lives, to be open to the changes which we continue to go through, and to be guided by your peace. Help us to be gracious and gentle with ourselves and our communities. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss.** (candle is lit; space for silence)

Tori: We hold space for all of the uncertainty in our lives. We want so much to have a sense of direction, to know where we are and where we are going. To know that the vaccines will work, to know that there will be no more variants, to know when to gather in-person, to know when there will be an end to this pandemic, and finally to know when our pain and chaos will lessen. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss.** (candle is lit; space for silence)

"Longing, We Gather Longing" v. 1 (3 times) OR Pour Out Your Heart v. 1 & 2

Pastor John: God you are our guide and our wisdom, reminding us to not be afraid and to trust in your presence. Provide us reassurance that we are on the right path. Take our lives and use them according to your will. Point us towards a deeper understanding of the interdependence and interconnectedness of all things. Take all that is lost in us, embrace our burdens, and bring us into deeper harmony with one another and with the planet. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss.** (candle is lit; space for silence)

Tori: We light these candles to remember the people we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their name, their voice, their face, the memory that binds them to us in this season. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss.** (candle is lit; space for silence)

Pastor John: We hold these beloveds before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours. And we remember all of those worldwide we have lost to COVID-19. The names and faces and stories we will never know. We grieve the ways that this disease disproportionately brings pain and suffering to the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. Draw us into deeper love with these neighbors, and into a more urgent call to our work for justice, equality, and peace around the world. Holy One, **Hold Our Loss** (candle is lit; space for silence)

Same song, either same or different verse: Pour Out Your Heart v. 1 & 2

As we close this time of prayer, you are invited to come forward and light a candle from one of the six we've lit together in this service. Bring whatever private grief or loss or hope that you carry, and leave it shining here alongside the prayers of this community.

Then, remain in silence to pray, or go in peace. Pastoral staff will be available until 12:30 if you'd like to pray or meet with a pastor.

But first, receive this benediction:

Benediction/Closing Prayer

Pastor Babette: Holy one, bear the burdens of our losses with us as we have named them before you. Teach us to know that darkness only lasts for the night because the light and joy of eternal goodness comes in the morning. Let your light so shine that our fears, worries and concerns are lessened. Where there is love in life, teach us to find it; help us to trust it and help us to grow in the power of love and hope. Amen.

Postlude

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Worship Leaders

Presiding: Pastor John Schwehn, University Pastor; Pastor Babette Chatman, University Pastor; Tori Remer, Pastoral Intern; Fardosa Hassan

Music: Andrea Sorum, Campus Ministry Musician

Campus Ministry Staff:

Pastor Babette Chatman '06, University Pastor and Director of Campus Ministries

Pastor John Schwehn, University Pastor

Fardosa Hassan '12, Muslim Student Program Associate and Assistant Director of Interfaith at Augsburg

Tori Remer, Pastoral Intern

Andrea Sorum, Campus Ministry Musician

Janice Dames, Administrative Assistant

UPCOMING IN CHAPEL

Thursday, February 3 at 11:30 am: Mindfulness Meditation with Andrea Sorum

Friday, February 4 at 10:40 am: Pastor Babette Chatman will preach and share about Black History at Augsburg and the legacy of Anita G. Hawthorne, founder of the Black Student Association (now PASU).

Monday, February 7 at 10:40 am: Centering Prayer for Justice, Hope, and Peace

Tuesday, February 8: No Chapel - Please attend the Batalden Seminar on Applied Ethics - see Inside Augsburg to register online

Friday Prayer (Jummah): 12:30 pm in Hoversten Chapel

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