

*The New Church of Montgomery*

*Sunday Worship*

Rev. Ron Brugler

January 22, 2023



In all of us there is a sense of what ought to be, which will not let us rest until we do give ourselves to its demands. It bids us rise above our lower nature and to seek the worth and meaning of life in our endless spiritual possibilities. It stirs our concern for all people and for a better world. Where does this yearning come from, if not from a God whose love dwells in the inmost recesses of our souls and is drawing us to himself, refreshing us in his image and likeness? We see this image and likeness in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, risen and glorified, who has come again in the truth, power and glory of his holy Word as He promised He would.

*from the 1982 Book of Worship*

Cover Art

*Joshua passing the River Jordan with the Ark of the Covenant (1800)*  
by Benjamin West (1738-1820) Oil on wood,  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia



Where love  
unites, faith  
cannot divide.



## Prelude

### *The Prayer*

- O'Neill Brothers

## Welcome

### Call to Worship (For two voices – adapted from Amos 9)

I promise you this: Days are coming when grain will grow faster than it can be harvested.

**We gather together to hear your promise to us renewed. We trust in your word.**

Grapes will grow faster than they can be picked, and even the mountains will flow with juice.

**We long to be refreshed by your spirit and to sense the abundance of your love for each of us.**

Yes, I'll bring you to a wonderful land, and you will live there. You will plant gardens and eat what you grow.

**Help us to dwell in your presence and walk in your paths.**

You will live there forever and build lasting homes. I, the lord, give you my promise.

**And in return we make this promise to you. We will be faithful and devoted to you.**

## Song

### *Angels Watching Over Me*

- Praise and Harmony Singers

## Lighting of the Community Candles

**We light the first candle to honor the good and truth to be found in all spiritual traditions.**

**We light the second candle to honor the Earth and all of life as the creation of the Divine, God of us all.**

**We light the third candle to honor and support the variety of our individual paths, which together make our one spiritual community.**

**We light the fourth candle to honor and provide an open and safe place for all who seek greater understanding and a life of deepening spirituality.**

## Song

### *Go Light Your World*

- Chris Rice

**Sharing of God's Word** Today's Readings from the Word both come to us from the Book of Joshua. They speak of the day when God led the Israelites across the Jordan River.

### Joshua 1:1-6

After the death of the Lord's servant Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "My servant Moses is dead. Get all of my people ready and cross the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. As I told Moses, I have given you the entire land that you are entering. Your borders will reach from the desert in the south to the mountains in the north, and from the River Euphrates in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. I will lead you and be with you just as I was with Moses. I will always be with you and will never abandon you. And so, be strong and of good courage, for I will always be with you.

## Joshua 3:1-7



*The Ark Passes Over the Jordan* (c.1900)  
by James Tissot (1836-1902)  
Gouache on board,  
Jewish Museum, New York City

And so, the next morning Joshua and all of the people got up early, left the camp, and went to the Jordan. They had to wait to cross the river because it was harvest time, and the river was in flood. For three days they waited. Then Joshua told the people that when they saw the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant through camp, they were to follow, being sure to stay behind the ark at all times. When they arrived at the raging waters. They were to

wash themselves as a sign that they trusted the Lord and would do as instructed. The Lord then said to Joshua, "What I do today will make the people honor you as a great man for they will realize that I am with you just as I was

with Moses. Tell the priests to carry the ark and wade just a few steps into the river, being sure to stay near the shore."

Joshua told the priests what the Lord had said. They did as instructed. And when they stepped into the raging waters the river dried up! They then crossed on dry land and the people followed into the land that God has promised to give them.

### Insight from our Teachings:

[Arcana Coelestia n.9207](#)

Angels lead and protect us every moment and every moment of every moment.

[Heaven and Hell n.391](#)

The Lord sends angels to watch over us, to lead us away from evil and to inspire us with good.

[Arcana Coelestia n.1740](#)

The more we love what is good and true, the more angels love to be with us.

### Prelude

*Trust in You*

- Lauren Daigle

### Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People, followed by The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Song

*Peace is Flowing like a River*

- The Heritage Singers

Jordan River Valley (2014)  
Photo by Staselnik  
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Message:

“Angels Reduced”

Rev. Ron Brugler

Reflection & Offertory: *Dei Dreams – Sacred Meditations* - Russian National Orchestra

Congregational Response

A Faith Reflection: **Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.?**

Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives.  
Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner,  
We will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

**ASAP – ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER**

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry-

**ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER**

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest-

**ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.**

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather-

**ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER**

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs

**ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER**



Closing Song:

*Go Now in Peace*

-Peter Shaw

Benediction

THE END OF WORSHIP.....THE BEGINNING OF SERVICE



## January 22, 2023 Announcements

**Swedenborg Study Group** completed the book *When Tragedy Strikes* and will be on hiatus until **the beginning of March**. We looked at about a dozen books and have tentatively picked out two front-runners for the group to select from for when get started:

- *Mindful Communications Challenge*, written by Sasha Silverman and John Odhner, and
- *How to Think Like an Angel*, a collection of writings and reflections similar to *When Tragedy Strikes* from the Swedenborg Foundation, edited by Morgan Beard.

Let us know if you're interested in one of these and can consider joining! We are discussing a meeting days now.

**Coffee & Conversation** This NCoM social and support group meets **Friday evenings at 5-6:30pm** usually at a local McDonald's for a bite to eat and in-person community. Contact Pete or Larry to get on the reminder list. Venue du jour is announced just-in-time.

**Race and Racism in Cincinnati**, a 3-part Docuseries presented by the International Justice and Peace Center will be on **Wednesdays, February 8, 15, and 22, from 2-4pm**. Each one is a 1-hour video covering a period of Cincinnati history, followed by discussion. A \$15 [enrollment](#) covers all 3 sessions. This series is sponsored by **A Mighty Stream**, the Interfaith Community of Sacred Activists for Racial Justice, a part of **EquaSion**, the Cincinnati Interfaith group in which NCOM participates.

**Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley Presentation.** Don't forget Dr. Woodley will be speaking on "Learning From Our Past, Healing Our Future: Dismantling Colonial Dominance in Western Christianity", on a free Zoom event presented by Swedenborgians in Action Against Racism, the Center for Swedenborgian Studies (our seminary), and [Born Brown](#). This is to be presented **Monday, February 13, 7:30-9pm**. Rev. Woodley, farmer, author, activist, scholar, distinguished speaker/teacher and wisdom keeper, using the lens of indigenous spirituality will speak on how Christianity can be disentangled from the precepts of colonialism and returned to its core message. Get more information and register [here](#).

**Board of Directors** meets on **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 PM**.

**Job Posting:** The Swedenborgian Church of North America is looking for a **Digital Communications Manager**, a permanent half-time position to be performed remotely with the exception of required in-person travel to the annual Council of Ministers meetings and Convention in the summer for 8 days. The Digital Communications Manager will manage the digital presence of the denomination, will assist in the continued development and maintenance of the website including content updates, will direct, manage, and oversee future projects for the website, develop and maintain social media presence, and be an integral part of the team developing the online/virtual component for the annual convention. They will serve as an *ex officio*, non-voting member on the Standing Committee of Communication and Information which meets remotely several times a year. This person will set regular working hours to enable communication with people located across North America. A longer version of this announcement with specific duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and other pertinent information is available on request.

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## NEW CHURCH OF MONTGOMERY



### WORSHIP & EVENT SCHEDULE

#### JANUARY

- 1/22 Rev. Ron Brugler  
1/29 Pastor Robbin Ferriman

#### FEBRUARY

- 2/5 GNC Sunday Rev. Clark Echols  
2/8 ❖ Race & Racism in Cincinnati Part 1  
2/12 Rev. Dr. David Fekete  
2/13 ❖ Dr. Woodley Zoom Presentation  
2/15 ❖ Race & Racism in Cincinnati Part 2  
2/22 ❖ Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent  
2/22 ❖ Race & Racism in Cincinnati Part 3  
2/26 Rev. Catherine Lauber

#### MARCH

- 3/5 GNC Service  
3/12 Rev. Dr. Sherrie Connelly  
3/26 Rev. Julie Conaron (tentative)

#### APRIL

- 4/2 GNC Sunday Rev. Clark Echols  
4/9 Rev. Ron Brugler - ❖ Easter  
4/23 TBD Guest Minister  
4/30 Pete Toot

Contact us

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