Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

January 20, 2013

Invocation / Invocación — Annette Beall

Abraham: The Story Unfolds ...

Prelude / Preludio — Aleia James

To Make You Feel My Love
Words and Music by Bob Dylan

Our Community Gathers / Nuestra Comunidad Se Reúne — Rev. Janice Ladd

Announcements / Anuncios — Joy Jolley

+ **Rite of Membership & Exchange of Peace** — Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

+ **Opening Song / Apertura Canción**

Your Grace Is Enough

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God, You wrestle with the sinner's heart
You lead us by still waters and to mercy, And nothing can keep us apart

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice, God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along

So remember Your people. Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

(*Chorus 2x*)

Yeah, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

(*Chorus)*

Yeah, Your grace is enough, Heaven reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me

God, I see Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me, for me

by Matt Maher
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+ You are invited to rise in body or spirit.

Enter the Story

The Story of God's relationship with the peoples of God is a story which has the power to change our lives! As we experience a truly Living Word in the stories of the Bible texts, both ancient and ever-new, we discover our enduring connection with the Creator of the universe and the many peoples of faith who have gone before us. Realizing each of our stories is part of The Story of revelation – humanity's ongoing encounter with The Holy - God's Story literally comes to life in our lives! Join us as we enter the "big story" of the Bible in worship during this season of new beginnings!

Abraham/ Abram

Generations of people have been looking at Abraham as a story that teaches morality. But it's not that simple. The process that produces the Christian tradition or the rabbinic tradition is a process like a conversation. The point of the story is to have this conversation. It's in talking and banging our heads together that we find some moral ground. This terrible difficult narrative is the perfect springboard for groups to be able to learn what is important to them.
- Lewis B. Smedes

Enter the Story Ken Schroeder

Listen ...

Abraham, also known as Abram, was a central patriarch in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. In his 70th year he received a promise from God who said, "Abram, go from your country and your kindred to the land that I will
show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing . . ." Abraham gathered his household, left his land and journeyed on through many lands. While in Egypt he became quite rich with animals, goods, gold, and slaves - as a result of lying to Pharaoh about his relationship with his wife, effectively prostituting her for his own safety and material gain. The consequences of his actions created hell for Pharaoh's household, but Abram carried on.

Having successfully led a few military skirmishes and gaining respect in the land, he and his wife remained obsessed with God's promise to "make a great nation" of Abram - surely that meant children, progeny to carry on his name in his old age! As his wife could not conceive, Abram slept with his wife's Egyptian slave-girl, according to the custom of his culture. Abram's first son Ishmael was born, but instead of feeling that this child fulfilled God's promise for them as they had planned, Abram's wife's jealousy raged against the slave-girl and her child, and eventually Abram sent them away into the desert. It was hell in Abram's house, but he carried on.
Further along in his journey, Abraham was told by heavenly visitors that God wanted to destroy the population of an entire city. Abraham found his moral fiber, interceding and arguing, pleading with God to not kill innocent people. Believing he convinced God to spare the city, the city was destroyed anyway. This was hell on earth for the annihilated city, but Abraham carried on.

Ten years after God's initial promise to Abraham, his wife miraculously conceived a child and bore him a son, Isaac. And then Abraham once again perceived the voice of God - telling him to take his son upon a mountain, and offer him as a sacrifice, an offering unto God. Abraham went forth with Isaac, prepared to do as he had heard, but just before he killed his son, a ram appeared and he offered the ram instead. Isaac and his father returned from the mountain, and Abraham carried on.

With all that Abraham did or did not do throughout his long journey with God, God's promise to him never left. And now we carry on, as we enter the story . . .

Reflective Moment

+ Scripture Lesson / Escritura Lección Paula Werner

Genesis 12:10-20

There came a severe famine in the land of Canaan. Food was scarce, so Abram made his way to Egypt to live there for a while as a foreigner. As Abram was about to enter Egypt, he pulled Sarai his wife aside. Abram said, “Sarai, you are a very beautiful woman and I am well aware when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘Look she’s his wife’; then they will kill me and let you live so they can have you for themselves. Tell them you are my sister so that nothing will happen to me because of you. In this way, you can save my life.

So when Abram came into Egypt with Sarai and his family, the Egyptians did indeed see that Sarai was very beautiful. And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they told Pharaoh just how beautiful she was. So Sarai was taken into Pharaoh’s house and made part of his harem. She pleased the Pharaoh, so he treated Abram very well, giving him gifts of sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female slaves, female donkeys and camels. But the Eternal One was not pleased and began afflicting the Pharaoh with plagues. So Pharaoh summoned Abram to come before him.

Pharaoh asked, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me this woman was your wife? Why did she say she was only your sister, so that I took her to be one of my wives? Here she is—take your wife and get out of here!"

…Because of his experience in Egypt, Abram had become quite rich.

Anthem Gospel Ensemble

Seasons
by Donald Lawrence

Engage / Sermón Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

Abraham: Co-Creating a New People

Moment of Relection

We Offer Ourselves Pastoral Search Committee

Offertory / Ofertorio Gospel Ensemble

Nobody Greater
by Darius Paulk

Communion / Comunión Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Communion Songs / Cantos de Comunión

Mighty To Save

Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior
The hope of nations

You're my Savior, You can move the mountains
You are mighty to save
You are mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
You rose and conquered the grave
Yes You conquered the grave

So take me as you find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything that I believe in
Now I surrender

Communion

As we gather, break bread, and tell stories of hope through prayer, song and ritual in the practice we call "communion," we bear witness that "Life is stronger than death. People can change with God's help. And God is worthy of our thanks and praise." All are welcome at the table: you do not need to be a member of this or any church to gather as God's children at the table of Life.

A brief blessing is offered with bread and juice, available to all. Gluten-free bread is offered at the far right; Spanish blessing offered at the far left.

Please honor this time of sacred community with singing, quiet meditation or prayer that we might each receive the spiritual nourishment we seek ...

Comunión

Al reunirnos, partir el pan, y contar historias de esperanza a través de la oración, el canto y el ritual en la práctica que llamamos "comunión", damos testimonio de que "la vida es más fuerte que la muerte. Las personas pueden cambiar con la ayuda de Dios. Y Dios es digno de nuestro agradecimiento y alabanza. "Todos están invitados a la mesa: no es necesario ser miembro de esta iglesia o cualquier reunir como hijos de Dios en la mesa de la Vida.

Una breve bendición se ofrece con el pan y el jugo, al alcance de todos. Pan sin gluten se ofrece en el extremo derecho; bendición españoles ofrecen en el extremo izquierdo.

Por favor respetar este tiempo de comunidad sagrada con canto, la meditación o la oración silenciosa para que podamos recibir cada uno el alimento espiritual que buscamos ...

Shine Your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory we have been set free
Jesus, Shine Your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory we have been set free.

Words & Music Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan, © 2006 Hillsong Publishing, CCLI License #1025612

Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

by Jerry Sinclair, © 1972 Manna Music, Inc. , CCLI License #1025612

Majesty

Majesty, worship God's majesty.
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise
Majesty, loving humanity, flow's from the throne
Unto God's own this anthem raise!
So exalt lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus we sing!
Majesty, worship God's majesty.
Jesus who died now glorified
This praise we sing!

by Jack Hayford
© 1981 Rocksmith Music and New Spring, CCLI License #1025612

You are Lord

You are Lord, You are Lord.
You have risen from the dead
And You are Lord.
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Words and music Unknown
Public Domain, CCLI License #1025612

Holy Ground

We are standing on Holy Ground
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

Words and music Geron Davis
© 1983 Meadowgreen Music Company and Songchannel Music, CCLI License #1025612

Prayer

If you are in need of prayer support, you can find prayer partners available during our time of communion or after worship in the right wing of the Sanctuary.

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving / Acción de Gracias** — Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ **Benediction / Bendición** — Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

Postlude / Postludió — Joel Hammett

Executive Team

Rev. Janice Ladd
Executive Pastor
RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

Mark C. Brown
Director of Worship Arts
MarkB@ResurrectionMCC.org (x109)

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
Director of Connections
RevMichael@ResurrectionMCC.org (x105)

Mark Eggleston
Director of Outreach
Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

Joy Jolley
Director of Operations
Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org (x102)

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini
Director of Life Development
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org (x107)

Professional Stipend & Volunteers

Rev. Pat Farnan
Volunteer Clergy
Altar Ministry Coordinator
RevPat@ResurrectionMCC.org

Joel Hammett
Organist & Accompanist

Reed Hoke
Sanctuary Choir Director
Reed@ResurrectionMCC.org

Christy Irvin
Gospel Ensemble Pianist

Debbie Mansfield
Nursery Coordinator
Nursery@ResurrectionMCC.org

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Rose Wall
HeavenSound Handbells Director
Handbells@ResurrectionMCC.org

Cassandra White
Gospel Ensemble Director
Cassandra@ResurrectionMCC.org

Jose I. Zuniga
Facilities Technician

Worship | Sunday, 9 & 11 am
Children & Youth Worship | Sunday, 11 am
Nursery | Sunday, 9 & 11 am

Resurrection MCC
2025 West 11th St, Houston, Texas 77008
Phone 713-861-9149 / Fax 713-861-2520
www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Welcome!

If you are attending Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for the first time, we are glad to have you here! We invite you to join us each week as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive way. All are welcome.

Make sure to visit the Concierge Desk, located in our Welcome Area, to receive a gift from us. You will find friendly volunteer hosts waiting to greet you.

Worship Services

Resurrection MCC is proud to offer a variety in our worship services. Our two Sunday services, at 9 & 11 am, are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

A Special Welcome to First-Time Families!

Our nursery staff would love to meet you and your infants & children aged one month through three years! The nursery is located to the right of the Sanctuary entrance and is open during both the 9 & 11 am services.

Children and youth aged 4 - 17 years are invited to join our Youth Ministries Program during the 11 am service in the Activities Building (located across the breezeway from our main parking lot). Sign-in begins at 10:45 am. All children must be registered and signed-in to attend. Parents are welcome to join the children for Communion at Noon in the Activities Building. Snack & sign-outs begin at 12:15 pm.

About Us…

Resurrection MCC is a Christian church that follows God's call to justice for all people. We build on a rich history of social justice for, and on behalf of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Since its founding in 1968, Metropolitan Community Churches have been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements as an international advocate for vulnerable people in places where religious orthodoxy, sexism, transphobia and homophobia can result in violence and death. MCC has been on the forefront in the struggle towards marriage equality in the US and other countries worldwide and continues to be a powerful voice in the LGBTQ equality movement. MCC's ministry reaches over 43,000 members in over 250 churches in 22 countries worldwide.

Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality. Because of our faith we are called to: do justice, show kindness, and live humbly with God (Micah 6:8); explore life's questions with open hearts and minds; raise our voices in sacred defiance against exclusion, whether religious, political or systemic; reach out to those with no hope; equip new generations of remarkable, far-reaching spiritual activists.

> The **MISSION** of Resurrection MCC is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action.
>
> The **VISION** of Resurrection MCC is to **ATTRACT** people into a relationship with God through radical **INCLUSION** into God's family, transform them to Christ-like **MATURITY**, and **MOBILIZE** them for their life purpose.

At Resurrection MCC, every member and friend is a minister of the church. We envision a Christian community that values diversity and is as diverse and all-encompassing as creation. Through salvation, service, study, and tithing, each member and friend will live and grow in faith and be spiritually fed. We embrace four core values:

Core Values

Inclusion

Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be the conduits of a faith where everyone is included in the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God's table.

Community

Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn and grow in their faith is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work that God has called us to do in the world.

Spiritual Transformation

Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

Social Action

Working to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and standing with to those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.

THE PROSPEROUS HEART:
Creating a Life of "Enough"

WEDNESDAYS

JANUARY 9 -APRIL 3

7 - 8:30 pm, Gathering Place

Author Julia Cameron, creator of the popular Artist's Way process, guides us in this incredible 12-week series for freeing ourselves of limiting ideas, negative patterns, and habitual fears which keep us from experiencing clarity and freedom in our financial lives. Recognizing that prosperity is a spiritual condition rooted in faith in God's care and provision, The Prosperous Heart deepens our awareness of blessing and cultivates our ability to live prosperously no matter our financial situation.

Details and RSVP: www.bit.ly/rmcc-events
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org

ENTER THE STORY:
BIBLE STUDY

NO CLASS MONDAY 1/21 - MLK JR HOLIDAY

MONDAYS

JANUARY 7- FEBRUARY 11

7 - 8:30 pm, Gathering Place

Beginning with the Spirit which hovered over the water and drew day from night, Creation from chaos, and the first Human from the dust of the earth, God's Story is a living story! Throughout 2013 we will experience Scripture anew as we engage God's Story through the unique bible study process of "storying": entering the Scripture with experiential reading and interactive reflection designed to bring God's Story to life in our lives! All are welcome for one, some, or all of these small group studies!

Details and RSVP: www.bit.ly/rmcc-events
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org

GENERATION FAITH TEENS

BUY YOUR OWN BRUNCH

SUNDAY, 1 - 3 pm

TODAY

IHOP Restaurant, 6508 Washington Avenue, Houston 77008

Our Generation Faith Teens will "Buy Your Own Brunch" together after church every third Sunday. Our Teen Ministry Facilitators will drive the 13-17 year-olds to and from a nearby restaurant as we share a monthly social brunch with Generation Faith. All Teens are welcome and families may attend (at nearby tables). Signed release forms required.

Details and RSVP: www.bit.ly/rmcc-events
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org

JOYFUL SINGING 101:
FINDING YOUR VOICE

FRIDAY, **JANUARY 25,** 6 - 9 pm, CHAPEL

SATURDAY, **JANUARY 26,** 9 am - 5 pm, CHAPEL

Whether you're a beginning singer or an experienced performer, experience the personal power of finding your voice by conquering the limitations which keep you from singing with joy! Created by voice coach, performer, and "Living Your Voice" innovator Tony Pryor, Joyful Singing 101 combines fundamental vocal technique, creative performance experiences, individual coaching, and small group exercises to guide you through a process focused on support rather than judgment to empower you to take personal risks, actualize your inner voice, and flourish in a world that yearns for authentic expression! Tuition for the weekend workshop is $190 per person; Friday-evening-only option (for those who want to get a sample of our process) is $40 per person. Class is limited in size; some sliding scale/scholarships available.

Tony@LivingYourVoice.com

THURSDAYS
JANUARY 24 & 31
7 - 8 pm, Activities Building

Love your body! Move your body! Zumba into the new year! Join us Thursday evenings during the month of January for a free introduction to this salsa-inspired fitness dance. Have fun, move your body, and get fit!

Details and RSVP: www.bit.ly/rmcc-events
Zumba@ResurrectionMCC.org

JOYFUL SINGING 102:
GETTING IN THE SANDBOX
MONDAYS, **JANUARY 14 - MARCH 11**
OR
WEDNESDAYS, **JANUARY 16 - MARCH 13**
6:30 - 9 pm, CHAPEL

During this series of 10 workshops over 9 weeks, students will enjoy Living Your Voice's group process along with individual coaching sessions focused on preparation of a solo. The class as a whole will work with one or more group songs which, together with students' solos, will debut during a "Showcase Celebration!" performance for friends and family on Saturday, March 16. (Those preferring not to sing their solo at the Showcase Celebration! can sing with their classmates in the group song.) Classes will be held on 9 evenings from 6:30 pm to 9 pm, with an additional all-afternoon class before the Showcase on Saturday, March 16. Tuition for the 10-class series is $300, payable in full on the first class meeting, or $35 per class paid at each class meeting. Classis limited in size; full tuition required regardless of missed classes; some sliding scale/scholarships available.

Tony@LivingYourVoice.com

BODY & SOUL:
How to Create a More Fulfilling, Healthy, and Balanced Life

A Community Partners Event with Resurrection Friend, Personal Trainer, and Life Coach Shawn Nemeth

Thursday,7pm at Resurrection MCC
January 31, 2013

This is a time of year when many of us reach for new time-management systems, devotional disciplines, diets, exercise plans – trying to find an ever-elusive "balance" which supports our lives, body and soul. Who among us doesn't wish we could somehow find a way to get in all in sync: our daily responsibilities, our physical and emotional health, our spiritual lives?

The definition of balance is "an even distribution of weight which enables us to stand upright or steady." Join Motivational Speaker and Life Coach Shawn Nemeth during this inspirational evening workshop as he shares key awarenesses and actions to support you in formulating and establishing practical and spiritual practices which will enable you to stand upright, get steady, and connect with God as together you co-create the balance you seek – body and soul!

This event is FREE and open to all! Please RSVP to fitmanpro@yahoo.com with questions or to reserve a space for this exciting offering.

MORE TO LIFE:
BEYOND CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 7
6:30 - 8 pm, Chapel

Living with - and beyond - a cancer diagnosis is many things, including frightening, confusing, and exhausting. Even so, there are those among us who would add spiritually awakening, deepening, and freeing to the list. This monthly connection group is offered by, with, and for persons who have experienced a cancer diagnosis in their lives. Come and share, no matter where you are on the path: recently diagnosed, pre-treatment, post-treatment, somewhere in the middle, or living in remission. We gather to share spiritual and practical encouragement by sharing our stories, our spiritual insights, our ideas and our resources, together bearing witness that cancer is only part of our journey; with God and each other there truly is more to life!

MoreToLife@ResurrectionMCC.org

Freedom to Marry Week

Valentine's Day
Marriage License Protest & March to City Hall

Thursday
February 14
11:30 am, County Clerk's Office, 201 Caroline St

Join us outside the County Clerk's office with signs supporting marriage equality. Around Noon, several same-sex couples will go upstairs and attempt to obtain marriage license applications. After being denied, we'll walk about a mile through downtown with our signs. We'll end at City Hall, 900 Bagby St, with a brief demonstration. **www.FamilyMarriageEquality.org**

FIRST FRIDAY
PRAISE

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 1
7 pm • Sanctuary

A spirit-driven and praise-filled musical worship experience awaits one and all on this First Friday in February. We will enter the season of All Saints and All Souls with lifted hands and hearts, rejoicing in the wonder of our amazing God and the power of praise to transform our weeping into singing, our mourning into joy, and our daily walk into a dance with the Lord of Love! All are welcome to come and join us as we enter God's gates with praise! A love offering will be taken.

MarkB@ResurrectionMCC.org

Our Families are GROWING and our Nursery is MOVING and EXPANDING!

Beginning on Sunday, February 3, we will offer a new Pre-K Class for ages 3 years up to Kindergarten. This class, located in our current Nursery space, will be complete with Sunday School lessons and a Communion Circle at Noon. The Nursery (for infants 1 Month - Walking) will be relocated to a new room directly across from the Chapel. Cleaning and painting has begun as we refresh both spaces in celebration of our growth spurt. We are in need of a few items listed below, and would be blessed to receive your gently-used or new donations over the next few weeks. Donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated! Nursery items needed include: sturdy changing table, changing table pads and covers, diaper-bag cubbies, parent sign-in table, and floor lamps. Toddler/Pre-K items needed include school supplies, sand-table/water-table, art easels, art aprons, 2 teacher chairs, and a first aid kit. Email Nursery@ResurrectionMCC.org with questions or to let us know how you would like to help.

FRIDAY • 7 pm

FEBRUARY 8

Kim Son

2001 Jefferson, Houston
www.kimson.com
713-222-2461

Share a meal and fellowship with our members, friends, and our Senior Pastor Candidate, Rev. Troy Plummer Treash. Seating is limited and by registration only. RSVP in advance at www.ResurrectionMCC.org.

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY:
PICTURE DAY

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 10

11 am - 1 pm, Activities Building

We love our families! Snuggle up with your loved ones for a special Valentine's Day Family Portrait, and make a one-of-a-kind frame together as your photo is printed! Join us for sweet treats, arts and crafts frame-making, and smile for the camera as our Nursery and Youth Ministry Programs host this wonderful time of letting our "love makes a family" shine!

Youth@ResurrectionMCC.org

Couplehood:
A New Way to Love!

Thursdays, 7 - 9 pm
February 14, 21, 28 & March 7, 14, 21

Couplehood seminars are deeply spiritual experiences for couples, both within their partnership as well as within the group of couples that assembles for this six-session class. Each week of the Couplehood Seminar, Certified Imago Couples Workshop Presenters Peggy Halyard and Doug Wilson will guide couples through the Imago process, encouraging participants to see their relationship within the context of their larger spiritual lives and longings.

Create the Relationship You Envision! You and your partner are invited to experience the transformative power of the celebrated Imago process for renewing, deepening and strengthening your relationship with one another throughout the season of Lent at Resurrection MCC! Resurrection Community Partners Peggy Halyard, BBA, MA, LPC and husband Douglas Wilson will be offering this 6-week series for couples based on the pioneering work of Harville Hendrix, author of Getting the Love You Want, A Guide for Couples.

Cost for full 12-hour series is $175.00/couple and includes all materials and couple-specific guidance throughout from Imago professionals. $75.00 required to reserve space, $100 balance due by first class.

Space is limited to 15 registered couples. Information session and initial registration opportunity: Sunday, January 27, 2013 from 12:45 – 1:15 pm at Resurrection MCC. Contact RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org with questions.

ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 13

7 - 8 pm, SANCTUARY

From dust we have been formed; to dust we shall return . . .

As we acknowledge the impermanence of our bodies, we claim the eternal Light within each of us. Join us as we enter into the season of Lent, reaching toward the Holy and releasing all that would deny the Light within.

A ritual imposition of ashes will be included in this time of worship for those who choose to receive them.

Rev. Troy Plummer Treash

Our Senior Pastor Candidate's Journey

Though born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rev. Troy considers himself a native Texan. He grew up in and around Houston, ultimately settling in Sharpstown when his mother remarried blending a new family. Today he is still the oldest and only boy with three younger sisters and multiple nieces and nephews.

The whole family was very active at Gethsemane United Methodist Church (UMC) in Sharpstown. All the siblings sang in choir, rang bells, attended Sunday School classes and youth group, and took turns as camp and youth counselors. During his senior year in High School, he experienced two things—the call to serve as a pastor and awareness that he was gay. God does have a sense of humor even if a teenager doesn't get it.

Rev. Troy graduated from the University of Houston first with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance immediately followed with a Master of Education in Occupational Education. He taught and then became Director of Education at Bradford School of Business. The HIV/AIDS pandemic took root and the call to ministry returned. Troy went to seminary at Houston Graduate School of Theology with a specialization in Pastoral Counseling and dual credentials as a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).

As he became an LPC, he also completed his Master of Divinity and was ordained by the Orthodox Catholic Church in 1991, and appointed to serve at Bering Memorial UMC in Montrose. Troy grew the Bering Support Network from one half-time staff to three full-time therapists, a part-time chaplain, multiple interns, and dozens of trained peer facilitators serving thousands of individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS for over a decade. His time at Bering Memorial UMC also included counseling, chaplaincy, teaching, leading retreats, preaching, mission trips, and leadership development.

After 13 years on the pastoral staff of Bering, Rev. Troy transitioned to Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) as their Executive Director, relocating to Chicago, Illinois. During his nine years as Executive Director, RMN's budget grew from $275,000 to $1,200,000 and from a staff of four to a staff comprised of seven full-time, five contractors, and multiple interns. Rev. Troy travelled coast-to-coast preaching, teaching, organizing, and building. Most recently, he spearheaded the Love Your Neighbor coalition which strives to remove the wedge between communities of color and LGBTQ allies as well as launching international work.

RMN is now a respected leader in the ecumenical faith movement for moral equality for LGBTQ people impacting the U.S., the Philippines, and Africa. Rev. Troy has served on the Religious Leaders Roundtable for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, consulted with the Human Rights Foundation, been a member of the Bishops and Elders Council, and served on advisory councils for the Institute of Welcoming Resources and the Global Justice Institute.

Following a month of spiritual renewal, the longing to return to local ministry grew even stronger and Rev. Troy mapped out a process to close his tenure with RMN. With 22 years of ministry experience and consulting with hundreds of congregations, he wanted to plant roots again in a vibrant congregation that would utilize his unique set of pastoral gifts. Having known Resurrection MCC for over 25 years, Rev. Troy was delighted to be invited to candidate for the Senior Pastor position at Resurrection MCC. Those years of walking with one another meeting challenges -- HIV/AIDS ministry, interfaith/ecumenical responses to local violence (Paul Broussard) and international crisis (September 11) -- forged a faith connection beyond words.

Personally, Rev. Troy says the connections go farther. He remembers worshipping at the Decatur Street church as Rev. John Gill preached and American Sign Language interpreters tag teamed one another to keep up; enjoying Rev. Carolyn Mobley's voice and guitar so many times; celebrating Rev. Dwayne Johnson's arrival and move to the new Sanctuary on 11th Street; finding

chairs for Sunday worship in the Activities Building following the flood; and even overcoming a bomb threat to share vows and rings with Walter on Freedom to Marry Day in that same Activities Building in 2002.

Rev. Troy's specific call to Resurrection MCC grew in conversation with the Pastoral Search Committee sharing the hopes and visions and good planning of the congregation and in the PSC's deliberate questions and exploration of what the best match looked like for Resurrection MCC. Rev. Troy shared that his discernment strengthened through personal prayer accompanied by Resurrection MCC's excellent weekly sermons (via podcast) and hearing the congregation's laughter. The meeting between Rev. Troy and the PSC in Houston only made clearer by proximity what was already evident in our hearts. Both were ready to say, "yes."

The Pastoral Search Committee is excited and blessed to present Rev. Troy Plummer Treash as the Candidate for Resurrection MCC Senior Pastor. It is clear to each and every member of the committee that this is the Candidate that God is calling to Resurrection MCC. At every interaction, Rev. Troy exceeds our expectations, and demonstrates his heart and passion for ministry. We are elated and in awe of God's unfolding plan.

CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

by recycling newspapers, magazines, catalogs and junk mail in the containers in our parking lot. We now have three collection bins as this program grows. We receive cash based on the weight collected. We have moved the dumpsters up front in the parking lot by the apartment complex.

FOOD PANTRY

Open by Appointment:
713-861-9149 x103

Nonperishables Needed:
Canned Meats, Vegetables, Fruit, Juice, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Beans

Please place donations in the shopping cart located in the Welcome Area.

Flowers in the Sanctuary
Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day. Email the date and message to Sara@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x112.

Board Member on Duty
Dr. Jackie Marshall and Van English
Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

General Fund Giving Report — For Week and YTD Ended January 20, 2013

Giving (Tithes and Offerings)	Week Ended	YTD Total
Total Amount Received	$8,232.27	$22,518.79
Total Amount Anticipated	$20,769.23	$31,153.87
Total Giving Variance		($8,635.08)
Weekly Giving Comparison		
Average Amount Received	$11,259.40	
Cash Flow Need	$20,769.23	(A)
Ministry Plan Need	$20,769.23	(B)
Attendance	**Week Ended**	**YTD Average**
Worship	374	434
Programming	155	139
Total Weekly Attendance	529	573

Cash Flow Need
is the minimum amount needed each week to fund our basic ministry obligations: staff, property, operations and debt (i.e., the minimum amount needed to keep the doors open each Sunday)

Ministry Plan Need
is the weekly amount needed per the budget approved by the congregation to achieve our 2013 minsistry plan goals and strategic growth initiatives (i.e., the amount needed to make ministry happen)

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY		JANUARY 20
9:00 am	**Sunday Worship**	*Sanctuary*
10:15 am	Fisher's Net - Prayer Time	*Chapel*
10:15 am	Speaking of Faith: Young Adults	*Activities Building*
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	*Activities Building*
11:00 am	**Sunday Worship**	*Sanctuary*
1:00 pm	Generation Faith/Teens: Buy Your Own Brunch	*Ihop*
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*

MONDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	JANUARY 21
6:30 pm	Facility Committee Meeting	*Gathering Place*
6:30 pm	Joyful Singing 102: Getting in the Sandbox	*Chapel*
6:30 pm	Special Music Rehearsal	*Music Room*

TUESDAY		JANUARY 22
4:00 pm	Special Music Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*
6:00 pm	Praise & Worship Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*
7:00 pm	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal	*Music Room*
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*
7:00 pm	Rainbow of Hope NA Group	*Gathering Place*
7:00 pm	Yoga	*Activities Building*

WEDNESDAY		JANUARY 23
6:30 pm	Joyful Singing 102: Getting in the Sandbox	*Chapel*
7:00 pm	The Chalice: The Prosperous Heart	*Gathering Place*

THURSDAY		JANUARY 24
6:00 pm	Special Music Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*
7:00 pm	Zumba	*Activities Building*
8:00 pm	OUT Later: Support for Gay Fathers	*Gathering Place*

FRIDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	JANUARY 25
7:00 pm	Joyful Singing 101: Finding Your Voice	*Chapel*

SATURDAY	OFFICE CLOSED	JANUARY 26
7:00 pm	Joyful Singing 101: Finding Your Voice	*Chapel*

SUNDAY		JANUARY 27
9:00 am	**Sunday Worship**	*Sanctuary*
10:15 am	Fisher's Net - Prayer Time	*Chapel*
10:15 am	Speaking of Faith: Young Adults	*Activities Building*
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	*Activities Building*
11:00 am	**Sunday Worship**	*Sanctuary*
1:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells Rehearsal	*Sanctuary*

Opportunities to Meet **Rev. Troy Plummer Treash** Senior Pastor Candidate

Sunday Worship
Sunday, February 3 9 & 11 am | Sanctuary

Rev. Troy delivers the Message during Sunday Worship.

Congregational Friendraiser Lunch
Sunday, February 3 12:30- 2:00 pm | Activities Building

All members and friends of Resurrection MCC are invited to enjoy lunch ($6 donation), hear brief remarks by Rev. Troy, and ask questions.

Worship Arts Ministry Dinner
Tuesday, February 5 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Gathering Place

Worship Arts Ministry participants are invited to share a meal with Rev. Troy and ask questions.

Life Development Potluck
Wednesday, February 6 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Gathering Place

Share a potluck meal and mingle with Rev. Troy before engaging in the "The Prosperous Heart: Creating a Life of 'Enough'" offering.

Friday Night OUT
Friday, February 8 7:00 - 9:00 pm | Kim Son, 2001 Jefferson

Share a meal and fellowship with our members, friends, and Rev. Troy. Seating is limited and by registration only. RSVP in advance at www.ResurrectionMCC.org.

Volunteer & Leadership Lunch
Saturday, February 9 11:30 - 2:00 pm | Activities Building

All church volunteers and leaders are invited to enjoy lunch with Rev. Troy and ask questions. Seating is limited and by registration only. RSVP in advance at www.ResurrectionMCC.org.

Sunday Worship
Sunday, February 10 9 & 11 am | Sanctuary

Rev. Troy delivers the Message during Sunday Worship.

Special Congregational Meeting & Election
Sunday, February 10 Following 11 am Worship | Sanctuary

All members are asked to attend and cast a vote in the Senior Pastor Election.