Prelude: Body and Soul

Gathering Music: God Comes to Us as One Unknown

1. God comes to us as one unknown a

2. God comes when souls in silence lie and

3. God comes to us in sound of seas, the

4. God comes in truth when faith is grown; be -

breath unseen unheard; as though within a
thoughts of day departed, half seen upon the
ocean's fume and foam; yet small and still un-
lieved, obeyed, adored: the Christ in all the

heart of stone or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a
inward eye a falling star across the sky of
pon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a
scriptures shown, as yet unseen but not unknown, our

pulse of being stirred a pulse of being stirred.
night within the heart, of night within the heart.
voice to call us home, a voice to all us home.
Savior, and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

A Word From Thomas Berry: “The New Story” from Dream of the Earth
Reflection

We ask for the strength to change.
We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering.

All

One

We have abused our power.
We have distorted our knowledge;
We have exploited the movement of the earth;
We have sought our own security;
We have forgotten who we are.

All

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.
We have estranged ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos; we have become estranged from the movement of the earth; we have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

All

We have forgotten who we are.

One

We have sought our own security;
We have exploited simply for our own ends;
We have distorted our knowledge;
We have abused our power.

All

We have forgotten who we are.

One: Now the land is barren, the waters poisoned, the air polluted.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

One: Now the forests are dying, the creatures disappearing, and humans are despairing.

All: We have forgotten who we are.

We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering.
We ask for the strength to change.

Reflection: The Rev. Thomas Troeger
Reading: Elephants Mourning Death
Reflection: The Rev. Thomas Troeger
Jazz Meditation: Kyrie Eleison

Time of Tragic Consequences

Reading: Revelation 22: 1-5

One: Let us pray.
All: We who have lost our sense and our senses – our touch, our smell, our vision of who we are; we who frantically force more than is possible into a single day, a single week and single year, without rest for body or spirit, hurting our Earth and injuring ourselves: we call a halt. We want to rest. We need to rest and allow Earth to rest. We need to remember that time is always God’s, not our own. We need to reflect and to rediscover the mystery of the Potter, who created and continues to create, the source that calls all things to communion with the Holy Spirit. We declare a Sabbath, a space of quiet: for seeing the tree of life in its fullness, for being alert to the possibility of the healing of the nations, for recovering the great, timeless truths; for learning how to live again in deep time. Amen.

Reflection: The Rev. Thomas Troeger
Reflection: The Rev. Thomas Troeger

Commission and Blessing

One: God bless us, we who are clay in the potter’s hand, we who are but a particle in the vast continuum of time, and at once beloved and known by God from the womb to this moment, and on into eternity. Amen.

One: And God bless this soil, the life-giving loam of the Earth, the mud that created A-dam, the dust to which we shall return. Amen

Taking the small bowls of soil, bless the hands of the person next to you with these words:

May God bless your hands to love and serve this whole creation.

One: Let us pray,
All: We receive the strength offered by our Creator in this symbol of soil.
One: Let us also receive the vision to see with the eyes of our hearts
All: And, like Christ, the courage to persevere in difficult times.
One: May all those whose lives we touch come to know God’s love.
All: May that same love be a hope to us. Let us go forth with blessed hands and renewed hearts, knowing the healing love of God

One: Yes! Go out into the world in peace. Have courage, hold on to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor everyone. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And may the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now, and remain with you forever. Amen.

Sending Song: I’ve Got Peace Like a River (Verse 2: Joy like a fountain. Verse 3: Love like the ocean)