

# Skyline Church of Oakland

...progressive, spiritual, open & affirming, green

**"NO MATTER WHAT GETS DONE  
AND HOW MUCH IS LEFT UNDONE,  
I AM ENOUGH.  
IT'S GOING TO BED AT NIGHT  
THINKING, YES, I AM IMPERFECT  
AND VULNERABLE  
AND SOMETIMES AFRAID,  
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE TRUTH  
THAT I AM ALSO BRAVE AND WORTHY  
OF LOVE AND BELONGING."**

**BRENÉ BROWN**

THE GIFTS OF IMPERFECTION

September 26, 2021 at 10am

<https://zoom.us/j/716026467>

Call in 669-900-9128

---

PASTOR	Laurie Manning
LITURGIST	Sheila Helms
MUSIC	Gabrielle Lochard
ZOOM	Tom Manley
HOSPITALITY	Sheila Helms

---

## PRELUDE & CANDLE LIGHTING

## WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

[Visitor form](#), [Prayer requests](#), [Comments](#)

## RESPONSIVE INVOCATION

ONE: The sun is rising, the day is beginning,  
in this season of equal light and darkness.  
Open for us the gates to our own heart.  
Show us the way into our own soul.  
We are as a ripple on the lake,  
as a wave in the ocean.  
Show us the way.

***ALL: Help us to experience the unity of all  
living things—the Oneness of which we are a  
tiny part.***

**OPENING HYMN** BB 646 (attached)  
*Down to the River to Pray*  
attr. George H. Allan

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION adapt. Sufi poem

One: I asked for strength and God gave me  
difficulties to make me strong.

***All: I asked for wisdom and God gave me  
problems to learn to solve.***

One: I asked for prosperity and God gave me a  
brain and brawn to work.

***All: I asked for courage and God gave me  
dangers to overcome.***

One: I asked for love and God gave me people to  
help.

***All: I asked for favors and God gave me  
opportunities. I received nothing I wanted and  
everything I needed.***

## ANTHEM

*Anthem* by Leonard Cohen  
arr. Kirby Shaw

## READING Psalm 1, transl. Stephen Mitchell

Blessed are the man and the woman  
Who have grown beyond their greed  
And have put an end to their hatred  
And no longer nourish illusions.  
But they delight in the way things are  
And keep their hearts open, day and night.  
They are like trees planted near flowing rivers  
Which bear fruit when they are ready  
Their leaves will not fall or wither  
Everything they do will succeed.

## READING

*Matthew 5: 38-48*

Here's another old saying that deserves a  
second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.' Is that  
going to get us anywhere? Here's what I  
propose: 'Don't hit back at all.' If someone strikes  
you, stand there and take it. If someone drags  
you into court and sues for the shirt off your back,  
gift wrap your best coat and make a present of it.  
And if someone takes unfair advantage of you,  
use the occasion to practice the servant life. No  
more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. "You're  
familiar with the old written law, 'Love your  
friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your  
enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to  
love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in  
you, not the worst. When someone gives you a  
hard time, respond with the supple moves of  
prayer, for then you are working out of your true  
selves, your God-created selves. This is what  
God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm

and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. In a word, what I'm saying is, *Grow up*. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

**MUSIC FOR PREPARATION** *More Love*  
Trad. American

*More love, move love, the heavens are blessing  
The angels are calling, o Zion, more love*  
(repeat)

*If ye love not each other in daily communion  
How can ye love God, whom ye have not seen?*  
(repeat)

*More love, more love, alone by its power  
The world we will conquer, for true love is God*  
(repeat)

*If ye love one another, then God dwelleth within  
you  
And ye are made strong to live by God's word*  
(repeat)

**SERMON** *Be Perfect? The Gift of Imperfection*

**RESPONSE HYMN** *We Shall Not Be Moved*  
Trad. American

*verse: We shall not, we shall not be moved*  
(repeat)

***chorus: Just like a tree that's planted by the  
water, we shall not be moved***

*v: For the union is behind us, we shall not be  
moved (repeat)*

***Chorus: Just like a tree...***

*v: We're fighting for our freedom... chorus*

*v: We're fighting for our children... chorus*

*v: We'll buy a mighty union... chorus*

*v: Laurie is our leader... chorus*

*v: We are black and white together... chorus*

*v: We are young and old together... chorus*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

[Tree of Life](#)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[skylineucc.org/news](http://skylineucc.org/news)

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL:** *Our Creator/Mother/Father, who art in  
heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom  
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 kin-dom, and the power  
and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**GIVING & RECEIVING OF GIFTS**

Offerings will be received in the basket on the rear table, where envelopes are available.

Checks can be made out to Skyline Community Church at 12540 Skyline Blvd, Oakland, 94619.

Please add a memo if your offering is part of your annual pledge. The congregation is invited to use credit card, text-to-pay, or bank transfers with Stripe, through our member database

[skyline.churchtrac.com](http://skyline.churchtrac.com). Friends may make credit card contributions through Stripe at [skylineucc.org/give](http://skylineucc.org/give) (preferred) or at [paypal.me/skylinechurch](http://paypal.me/skylinechurch).

[10/2 Blessing of the Animals Volunteer Signup](#)

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Cool Water* by Bob Nolan

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN**

NCH 2

*Glory, Glory Hallelujah*, Trad. African-American  
arr. Joyce Finch Johnson

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

---

Skyline Community Church

12540 Skyline Blvd

Oakland, CA 94619

510-531-8212

[office@skylineucc.org](mailto:office@skylineucc.org)

[Skylineucc.org](http://Skylineucc.org)



OPENING HYMN

# DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY

American folk song

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece begins with a 2/4 time signature, changes to 3/4, and returns to 2/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes.

As I went down to the riv-er to pray, stud-y-ing a-bout that  
good old way and who shall wear the star - ry crown— Good Lord,  
show me the way! O \*sis-ters, let's go down. Let's go down, come on  
down. O \*sis-ters, let's go down, down to the riv-er to pray.

\*brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners

Text and music: American folk song; "The Good Old Way," attr. to George H. Allan,  
fr. *Slave Songs of the United States*, 1867.