

Trinity-Grace United Church

April 3rd, 2022
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Brazen Acts of Love

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING

Welcome / Introduction

Becoming Present

Introit: "Day by Day" (1st time - soloist; 2nd time - congregation)

Day by day, day by day,
O dear Lord, three things I pray:
to see thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Candle-lighting

Invitation

(Leader/All)

Siblings in Christ,
As we gather today,
May we find courage here—
courage to follow our call,
courage to live out our faith.

May we find hope here—
hope for a better world,
hope that refuses to let us go.

May we find truth here—
truth that lives in sacred community,
truth that lives in ancient stories.

May we find all that we seek.
May we know God-with-us as we worship today.

Prayer

Hymn: "OH A SONG MUST RISE"

MV 142

Refrain

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again (again)
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend. (descend)

1. From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*
2. From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again. (again)
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*
3. From ev'ry house of worship,
in ev'ry faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again.
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*

Prayer for Reconciliation

(One/All):

God, we have made our way deeply into this Lenten season.

We are aware that our journey with Christ is moving closer and closer to the cross.

We confess it is not easy to follow.

Merciful Christ,
your willingness to give of yourself inspired some to give of themselves,
while others hesitated or criticized.

We confess we often struggle to decide what to give, whom to help.

In our living, we struggle and can grow weary.
We expend our energy at work, at church, caring for others.

Resentment can grow and resilience can fade.

We can be critical of those in need and those who help them.

Yet it is when we are empty that your spirit finds room to enter.
And so we empty ourselves by offering our burdens to you now in prayer...

- *time for silent prayer* -

Assurance

Sharing Peace

Friends in Christ, may the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We share signs and words of peace with each other.

ENCOUNTERING GOD'S LIVING WORD

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture reading

From the New Testament: John 12: 1-8

Mary anoints Jesus

Reflection

RESPONDING

Hymn: "MY LOVE COLOURS OUTSIDE THE LINES"

MV 138

1. My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

3, 4 We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking
from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave-stones
if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

Offering our Gifts

*The presider offers a prayer of dedication for offerings received.
Trinity-Grace is grateful for the many ways we are all able to contribute to the ministry
and mission of this faith community.*

Prayer of Dedication

Announcements

News about the life of the congregation and community.

JOINING GOD'S TABLE through the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Communion Prayer

(One/All)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Holy One.

God ever-giving: you who hovered over creation,
you who birthed time itself, and land, and sky, and sea –
from before eternity you loved us.
You have given your people all the things to sustain life.
In times of hunger and thirst you have provided for us.

In times of slavery you have liberated us.
In times of our wandering you have sought us,
forgiven us, and welcomed us home.
In all of our sojourns in wilderness and desert,
in city and mountain, you promise to sustain us.,
pouring out your love in ways beyond our imagining.

Therefore, with all the faithful who have gone before
and with all your creation, we raise our voices to proclaim your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is One who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest!**

[The Prayers of the People](#)

[The Prayer of the Disciples](#) (The Lord's Prayer)

(ALL:)
Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
Your way of justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

**In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

- New Zealand Prayer Book

Source of life, as we gather those we pray for into our table fellowship,
May me recall now how in the fullness of time, you sent Jesus,
the Living Word of justice and truth, to challenge the evils of this world.
And when that world tried to silence that Word,
you challenged the very stones to shout in prophetic witness.

We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends.
Taking a loaf of bread, he blessed it, broke it and gave it to them.
And as they ate, he helped them to understand that this was his body,
broken by the world, for the sake of love.
And he said to them, "Each time you do this, remember me."

Likewise after supper, he took a cup,
and after giving thanks, he passed it to his friends.
And as they shared the cup, he helped them to know that they were
sharing in his his life, poured out that all might be restored to life.
And he told them, "Whenever you do this, remember me."

Let us pray:
God of desert places, Song of Hope when all seems lost,
your promises urge us to trust in your goodness and grace.

**Send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here,
that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to one another and to the world.**

This we pray through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

Sentence

These are the gifts of God for the family of God.

Communion Hymn: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY VU 467
Sung while the communion elements are being distributed.

Sharing Communion

Please stay seated. Bread (gluten free) and grape juice will be handed out.

Please take both and hang on to them until everyone has been served. We will eat and drink together, as prompted by the worship leader.

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Prayer after Communion

(All)

**God of love,
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to your Way
of love, compassion and justice.
Keep our hearts fixed where Christ would lead us;
fill us with the life that is Christ within us. Amen.**

SENDING

Hymn: "WE ARE ONE"

VU 402

- 1 We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.
- 2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.
- 3 We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;

in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.

4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Sending/Blessing

Response: "May God's Sheltering Wings"

May God's sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect us;
May God's nurturing arms, her cradling arms sustain us;
And hold us in their love; and hold us in God's love.

Participants in today's service

Set up: Mary Al Lay
Reader: Doug Jameson
Music: Naoki & Melody Natsume
Presider: Rev. Sandra Nixon

POEM OF THE WEEK:

Lessons from a Winter Rose

I am dumbfounded
by the sheer persistence
of a winter rose that blooms
on the coldest of days—
when the rest of the world
has turned dim and gray,
when the rest of the world is sleeping.
The audacity to stand so tall,
to decorate the world with color,
to be the only one
brave enough to bloom.
I wonder what that's like.
Maybe it's similar
to pouring perfume
on the feet of Jesus—
shocking and beautiful
at the same time.
On winter morning walks
I pass a bed of roses.
I dare not pick one.
Instead I say thank you.
Thank you for the beauty.
Thank you for the reminder.
Thank you for the bloom.
And I walk home and pray—
God, if you can,
make me that brave\



- written by: rev. sarah speed | sanctifiedart.org