

Trinity-Grace United Church

February 2nd, 2025

Epiphany Season

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Naoki Natsume

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING

INTROIT: "Love Us Into Fullness"

MV 81

Soloist:

Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace
Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.
Love us into fullness, hold us in your care
cheer us with your presence, here and everywhere.

**ALL: Love us into fullness, and we will be strong
Jesus walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.**

OPENING RESPONSES

One/**ALL:**

O Lord, in you we find refuge;

Let us never be put to shame.

Turn your ear to us, O God, and save us.

For you are our rock and our fortress.

God has been our hope and our trust from our earliest days.

God has been with us since we were born from our mother's womb.

Let us sing out our praise of God's steadfast love.

We will offer God all glory and honour this day and always!

I invite you as you're willing and able, to stand to sing our first hymn:

HYMN: "Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"

MV 173

1. Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it;
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.
2. Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.
4. Give thanks for strong yet tender hands,
held out in truth and blessing.
where words fall short, let hands speak out,
the heights of love expressing.

5. Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

PRAYER FOR RELEASE & RENEWAL

One: Holy and everlasting One,
your love and creative, life sustaining power
are beyond our imagining.
You are hidden in mystery, and yet so present.
In a hectic world, you are peace and rest.
In a harsh world, you are tenderness and mercy.

In the cold and dark of winter, you are light and comfort,
and so we bring you our worship,
for you are the One who created us,
the One who redeems us,
and the One who gives us life,
our one and only God,
to whom we offer all love and loyalty, now and always.
Your loving kindness endures forever,
and invites us to return to you, the ground of our being,

One: God, whose name is love,

**ALL: we confess our faults and failings,
knowing you know us through and through.**

One: You tell us that love is patient and kind,

ALL: and you know when our patience and kindness fall short.

One: You tell us love is never rude or selfish,

ALL: and you see the times we insist on our own way.

One: Forgive us the excuses we make to ourselves when our love falters.
Strengthen us by your Spirit so that our love is genuine and reliable.

This we pray in the name of the one who so clearly showed us the way of your love, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

Time for silent prayer

A WORD OF GRACE (ASSURANCE)

One: Friends in Christ, hear this good news:

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love;
as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins.

**ALL: Thanks be to God whose love and forgiveness are steadfast.
May we be steadfast in our forgiveness of one another.**

SHARING PEACE

One: As we take hold of God's grace,
we can also then invite God's peace into our hearts.
May the peace of Christ,
be with you all!

All: And also with you!

One: Let's take a few moments to greet one another in Christ's peace.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

One: God of wisdom, we long to hear your holy Word in new and fresh ways.
Open our ears to hear your call.
Open our minds to understand your truth.
Open our eyes to the work of your kingdom and equip us to take our part.

ALL: Amen.

READING: Luke 4:16-21

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

ALL: Open our hearts, Spirit of Life.

HYMN: "The Spirit of the Lord"

Songs for a Gospel People 115

1st time Soloist 2nd time - congregation

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

EXPLORING THE WORD

Reflection by the Rev. Marianna Harris

RESPONDING

SUNG RESPONSE: "Peace Child"

Soloist

Soloist

During the song, the offering box is brought forward

1. Peace Child, in the sleep of the night,
in the dark before light you come,
you come in the silence of stars
in the violence of wars - Savior, your name
2. Peace Child, to the road and the storm,
to the gun and the bomb you come,
you come through the hate and the hurt,
through the hunger and dirt - bearing a dream.
3. Peace Child, to our dark and our sleep,
to the conflict we reap, now come,
now come be your dream born alive,
held in hope, wrapped in love: God's true Salaam.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Trinity-Grace is grateful for the many ways we are gifted and called to contribute to God's mission through this faith community.

Prayer of Dedication

One: In becoming yours, O God, we give these gifts and our very selves.

ALL: Love, made visible. Compassion, made practical.

These are our gifts, O God.

One: Bless all we offer and bless us to steward them wisely,
in Jesus' name.

ALL: Amen.

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

Announcements, celebrations & prayer requests.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE AND CONCERN (The Prayers of the People)

Periods of silence will be left for you to offer your own prayers

THE PRAYER OF THE DISCIPLES (The Lord's Prayer)

**ALL: Abba, our God,
Whom the heavens disclose:
may your name be held holy,
may your authority come.**

**May your longing be fulfilled
as in heaven, so on earth.**

**Give us today the bread of tomorrow,
and cancel our debts,
as we have already forgiven
our debtors.**

**Do not draw us towards sin
but set us free from the grip of evil;
for authority, power and glory
are yours alone, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

- Adapted from the Alternative Service Book, 1980

HYMN: "I Have Called You by Your Name"

MV 161

1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.
2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body, given long ago.
3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,

choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

*The Christ candle is extinguished;
Our prayers rise and are received into God's heart.*

SENDING & BLESSING

One: People of God,
You are called now to journey from this space
As prophets speaking God's truth,
Disciples living Christ's way,
And companions in the spirit.

**ALL: May the Creator, who calls us and sends us,
and who risks for us:
May this God of life and love
Be with us and bless us,
With courage and compassion.**

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace, Guided By the Light"
1st time Soloist 2nd time - congregation

MV 211

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be nourished by the word of life.

POSTLUDE