

Trinity-Grace United Church

October 27th, 2024

"Love Thy Neighbour-hood"

*The church in community, collaboration,  
communion & solidarity - Week 2*

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### PRELUDE

*Naoki Natsume*

### WELCOME

### CANDLE LIGHTING

**INTROIT:** "God is Passionate Life"

(VU 695)

*Soloist:*

God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **justice** for all people.

**ALL:**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **freedom** for all people.**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **equity** for all people.**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **community** for all people.**

## OPENING RESPONSES

*One/ALL:*

Welcome to this morning, and to this time of worship.

**Worship is always our true home.**

It is here that we are welcomed, here that we can be our God-given selves;

**Here, we can be truly accepted and loved for who we are.**

Help us to rest in your love, in the presence of the spirit and this family in faith;

**As children of God, one community in Christ.**

## GATHERING PRAYER

*One:* God of Light and Life,  
we come before you in wonder and awe,  
eager to sense your enlivening spirit and presence.  
You are the source of all that is good and true,  
the essence of love.  
You bring gifts of peace and healing into troubled lives.  
You show us the way to experience fullness of life,  
And to build a better world together.

In this time of worship,  
inspire us to believe our work in Jesus' name makes a difference.  
Be with us now; hold us in your care, and stir us to action  
in Christ's name.

**ALL: Amen.**

**HYMN:** "We Are Pilgrims" (The Servant Song)

(VU 595)

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

Sibling, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

## PRAYER FOR RELEASE & RENEWAL

*One:* We come to worship faithfully God-

**ALL: We're here again this morning.**

*One:* We come faithfully, but there's a part of all of us that doubts, that wonders:

**ALL: Are you really there?**

**Can we really trust you?**

*One:* Yet in the midst of a noisy and distracting world

**ALL: We know we live in a world where we can't live without you.**

*One:* We offer you in silence now: our wonderings, our weep,  
and our longing of our spirits...

*Time for silent prayer*

*One:* O Holy One, source of life and love,

give us an assurance of what we cannot always see;

**ALL: A conviction of hope in your presence and your power.**

*One:* Fill us with your presence and power  
Nurture the flame of your love within us.

***ALL:* We pray this in the name of the one we follow,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## SHARING PEACE

*One:* May the peace of Christ be with you all.

***ALL:* And also with you!**

*We take a moment to greet each other in the peace of Christ.*

## ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

*One:* God of the ages,  
Open our hearts and minds today to listen for your wisdom  
spoken as your spirit has moved through your people.  
Move in us and among us by your Spirit so that in their words,  
we may meet your Living Word, Jesus Christ.

***ALL:* Amen.**

**READING:** Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

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

**All:** Open our hearts, Spirit of Life.

## EXPLORING THE WORD

Reflection by Karen Reed

**SUNG RESPONSE:** “God is Passionate Life” (VU 695)

*Soloist:*

God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **justice** for all people.

**ALL:**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **freedom** for all people.**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **equity** for all people.**

**God is passionate life, strong and vibrant in us  
as we seek **community** for all people.**

## RESPONDING

**HYMN:** “Christ Has No Body Now But Yours” (MV 171)

During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward

*Refrain:*

**Christ has no body now but your,  
no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,  
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,

no touch but yours to bind the broken hope  
of the people of God. **Refrain**

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,  
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;  
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy  
of the city of God. **Refrain**

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,  
to walk this world with mercy and justice.  
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace  
for the children of God. **Refrain**

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;  
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,  
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be  
to the people of God. **Refrain**

## 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:* Generous God,  
we bring ourselves and our gifts this day  
as a sign of our faith and commitment to your Way.

**ALL:** As we ponder the great needs of your people  
and your world,  
bless and use all we offer  
for Christ's ministry of justice and healing.  
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)

*SUNG*

Our father, our Mother,  
loving God in whom is heaven:  
May your name be made holy,  
may your reign come.

May your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the bread we need  
and forgive us our debts  
as we have forgiven our debtors.

And do not put us to the test  
but free us from evil,  
for yours is the dominion  
and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.

*United Church of Christ, USA, 1995 (adapted). Music: Wendy Edey, 2002*

**HYMN:** "Draw The Circle Wide"

(VU 145)

***Refrain:***

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms. ***Refrain***

Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call. **Refrain**

Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
than we've ever dreamed before;  
let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door. **Refrain**

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

## SENDING

*One:* The light of God

**ALL: To guide us and give us courage**

*One:* The peace of God

**ALL: To comfort and encourage us**

*One:* The justice of God

**ALL: To heal the world and its peoples**

## BLESSING

*Leader:*

May grace and community of God - Creator, Christ and Spirit  
bless us and keep us on the journey of love, today and always.\_

**Sung Response:** "Amen"

(VU 974)

(Sing 3x)

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

## POSTLUDE

*During the postlude you are welcome to sit and listen,  
or to get up and move around.*