

Trinity-Grace United Church
ORDER OF SERVICE
September 1st , 2024

PRELUDE

Naoki Natsume

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

INTROIT:

*Soloist: Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me! (VU 288)*

OPENING RESPONSES & CANDLE LIGHTING

One: Christ, the light in our world;

All: Christ, the light in our hearts;

One: Christ, the light in this place;

All: Christ, the Light is with us.

The Christ candle is lit

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader:

Faithful God,
In your creation,

you have made the seasons to change,
the sun to shine and the rain to fall,
the vines to bear fruit and the fields to produce good things.

You alone are our strength and security;
you alone bring us rest and comfort.
We turn to you as the source of all life,
marvelling at your wisdom,
seeking to learn your purpose for our lives.

We offer you our praise and thanksgiving,
for you are the God who made us,
the Christ who mends us,
and the Spirit who brings us life.

Amen.

HYMN: ““Praise God For this Holy Ground”

MV 42

Praise God for this holy ground,
place and people, sight and sound.

Refrain:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.

Praise God in whose word we find
food for body, soul and mind. ***Refrain***

Praise God who through Christ makes known
all are loved and called God's own. ***Refrain***

Praise God's Spirit who befriends,
raises, humbles, breaks and mends. ***Refrain***

Though praise ends, praise is begun

where God's will is gladly done. **Refrain**

PRAYER FOR RELEASE AND RENEWAL

One: Holy, Life-giving God,
Your love and purpose embrace the whole world.
You set us in a world of beauty and bounty
and invite us to meet you in the midst of its wonders
and to journey toward the way of wholeness.

***All:* Yet sometimes we try to push you away.
We cling to our habitual ways of thinking,
and resist your challenge to open our lives to your leading.
Forgive us when we direct our intention
toward goals and priorities that do not honour
the path of love and faith.**

Time for silent prayer

A WORD OF GRACE

Leader: Hear this good news:
We do not walk alone.
Each day, God's grace surrounds us,
and God's spirit is ready to encourage us.
May you accept these gifts and step forward,
Renewed, into this new day.

Response: (singing): "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (VU 288, v.3)

***All:* Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.**

Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed, thy hand hath provided -
Great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

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 wisdom,
you teach us with love and you challenge us with truth.
Send your Holy Spirit to help us grasp your love and truth
in the Scriptures as we encounter your living Word today.

All: Amen.

READING: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. **8** “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, **9** and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be

honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11** For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

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

EXPLORING THE WORD

- Message by Rev. Sandra Nixon

RESPONDING

HYMN: “O For A World”

(VU 697)

During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.

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

Leader: Generous God,
We do not give so we will be loved,
we give because we are loved.

All: **In gratitude,
we bring these gifts and pray that
your spirit may move in this community,
transforming all we offer
into faithful ministry, in Christ's name. Amen.**

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

We share announcements,, joys & 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 (An Indigenous 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!
The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!
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, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, 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.

Source: Maori, from The New Zealand Prayer Book (VU 916)

HYMN: "May The God of Hope Go With Us"

VU 424

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,

working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

SENDING & BLESSING

Leader:

We go from this place as a blessed
and blessing community;
As those invited and commissioned
to invite others into God's feast of life and love.

And may the spirit guide and inspire you,
as Christ's love fills you with the sacred peace
that passes all understanding.

The Christ candle is extinguished

Our prayers rise and are received into God's heart

SUNG RESPONSE: "Sing Amen"

(VU 431)

(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name O God,
(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God.
(Sing Amen) Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!
Amen we praise your name, O God!

POSTLUDE