

Trinity-Grace United Church

**November 10th, 2024**

**"Peace & Remembrance"**

*The church in community, collaboration,  
communion & solidarity - Week 4*

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### PRELUDE

*Naoki Natsume*

### WELCOME

### CANDLE LIGHTING

**INTROIT:** "Spirit of Life"

1st time: Soloist, **2nd time: ALL**

Spirit of life, come unto me  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea,  
Move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close, wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, some to me, come to me.

### OPENING RESPONSES

*One/ALL:*

Spirit of Life, come to us this day.

**Stir in our hearts compassion and trust.**

Spirit of Life, come to us this day.

**May your power move in our actions and our voices,  
Giving rise to justice and peace.**

Spirit of Life, come to us this day.

**Spirit of Life, come to us!**

## GATHERING PRAYER

*One:* God of justice and peace,  
We gather at this solemn time of year,  
aware of the costliness of human sin in our history.  
In the face of hostility between nations and neighbours,  
you have come to us in Jesus Christ,  
carrying no sword, calling us to serve as peacemakers.

In this time of worship, renew in us the hope  
that you will turn swords into ploughshares,  
and lead the world you love away from the study of war  
to the promise of peace with just relations  
for all people and all creation.

**ALL: Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Praise With Joy The World's Creator"

(VU 312)

Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love, and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
God whose grace shall never cease.  
Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,

heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:  
friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:  
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
This the world shall see reflected:  
God is One and One in Three.

## PRAYER FOR RELEASE & RENEWAL

*One:* God of justice and mercy,  
we confess that the world around us is in a mess.  
Countries turn disputes over territory into threats of terror.  
Old enemies stir up conflict within their tribes and nations.  
Threats of violence keep us all on edge.

When we reflect on our history of the things  
that make for peace and the things that make for war,  
we confess that we have resorted to violence instead of  
the hard work of seeking just and fair solutions;

***ALL:* We confess that sometimes we have been reluctant  
to hold others to account,  
and have ignored injustice when we found it convenient.**

*One:* We confess that our world has not learned the lessons from the past;

***ALL:* We confess that our inability to resolve conflicts through peaceable means has caused harm beyond measure.**

*One:* Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers,"  
Yet as Christians we have often focused on what divides us rather than on what can bring us together.

***ALL:* Forgive us for our reluctance to do the hard work of peacemaking.  
Forgive us for the unwise use of our own power.**

For all these things, and for those which we name before you now in the silence of our hearts, forgive us...

*Silent prayer*

*One:* Loving Creator, your realm is closer to us than we can imagine.

***ALL:* Help us to begin by finding your peace and love within, then sharing this peace with others.**

## SINGING INTO GRACE

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

(VU 955 - Iona Community)

*Soloist:* Dona nobis pacem in terra,  
Dona nobis pacem, Domine.

***ALL:* Grant to us your peace on earth,  
Grant to us your peace, O God.**

## 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.*

## RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE

*One:* At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month,  
the guns fell silent on the Western Front,  
marking the end to the First World War.  
And now, every year, we remember.  
We remember “the war to end all wars”,  
and the one that came after it.  
We remember the numerous wars that have marred our world since,  
as humanity continues to struggle  
to achieve true communion and seek abundant life for all.

### REMEMBRANCE: WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

*One:* Today we recall the terrible toll of two world wars;  
remembering those who served in those wars,  
many of whom gave their lives,  
and all of whom were changed forever by the experience.  
Many were wounded, many traumatized.  
Lives, families and futures were changed forever.  
Social and political resentments took hold.  
Lest we forget the terrible costs of war;

***ALL:* O God, in your spirit, may we remember.**

*Red flowers are placed in vase*

### REMEMBRANCE: RACISM & PERSECUTION

*One:* We remember those have been victimized during the world wars.

We remember the racism and genocide.  
We remember those who were forced to wear the pink triangle.  
We remember those who suffered and died in concentration camps.

We remember the Japanese in Canada who were sent to internment camps.  
and those in Canada and around the world who

Lest we forget that you have made all people in your image,  
and suffer with all those who suffer;

**ALL: O God, in your spirit, may we remember.**

*Red flowers are placed in vase*

REMEMBRANCE: RECENT CONFLICTS

*One:* We remember those who have lost their lives in the many conflicts  
since our two world wars.  
We remember the countless victims of persecution, racism,  
ethnic cleansing and genocide.

We remember those peoples currently experiencing violence,  
oppression and displacement due to conflicts around the world.

We name and remember in particular the children  
who are victims of war and terror, whose lives and education  
have been disrupted, and for families who have been separated.

Lest we forget that war and conflict produce lasting trauma  
which affects not only those directly involved, but future generations;

**ALL: O God, in your spirit, may we remember.**

*Red flowers are placed in vase*

REMEMBRANCE: PEACEKEEPERS AND PEACEMAKERS

*One:* We light this candle, remembering those who continue to serve in missions to help restore peace and well-being to countries and communities.  
We remember those who offer care and support for victims, veterans and others who need care and healing.  
We pray for those who protest and organize, attempting to hold leaders and nations to account, and we remember and give thanks for those who give sacrificially on behalf of others.

We pray also for those who speak the unpopular truth; who protect the unpopular victims, and who choose the path of peace when it is not popular.

Lest we forget that as people of the way of love, our call is to welcome Christ's peace within and cultivate peace and just relations in our communities;

***ALL: O God, in your spirit, may we remember.***

*White flowers are placed in vase*

## PRAYER

***ALL: Holy, life-giving God,  
We remember and we pray that one day,  
all people may live in safety and security.  
May your will be done among all people and all nations.  
May your peace be on earth as it is in heaven.  
Amen.***

**HYMN:** "God, as with Silent Hearts" (verses 1 & 4) (VU 527)

God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind  
how hate and war diminish humankind,

we pause, and seek in worship to increase  
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,  
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.  
May we, impassioned by your living Word,  
remember forward to a world restored.

## 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:** Psalms 126 & 127

Unless God builds the house,  
its builders have laboured in vain.  
In vain they rise up and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil.  
Yet those who live in God's love are given rest.

Restore our fortunes, O God,  
as streams refresh the Negev.  
Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carrying seeds for sowing,  
shall come home with songs of joy, carrying in their sheaves.



## READING: Ruth 3: 1-2, 4: 13-17

Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working.

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin;[f] and may his name be renowned in Israel!

He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.' Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, 'A son has been born to Naomi.' They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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

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

## EXPLORING THE WORD

Reflection by Rev. Sandra Nixon

## RESPONDING

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

***ALL:***

**We believe God made this world,  
God loves this world;  
God lives in this world.**

**We believe God cradles this world in loving hands:  
holding its pain, caring for every memory**

**of every person and community.**

**We believe God loves each human being  
on every side of every struggle,  
who has given of themselves,  
even to death.**

**We believe God loves each human being.**

**We believe violence breaks God's heart,  
and tears at the fabric of God's realm.**

**But we believe that love is stronger than hate,  
hope burns away at despair,  
and Christ's spirit empowers us to be weavers  
of a more beautiful and peaceful world.**

**HYMN:** "For the Healing of the Nations"

(VU 678)

During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward

For the healing of the nations,  
    God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing  
    of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
    help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
    from despair your world release;  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
    all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
    fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,

let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written  
your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness  
bring the life of Christ to mind;  
that, by our response and service,  
earth its destiny may find.

## 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 needs of the earth and your people,  
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)

*(Sing)*

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:** "Spirit God, Be Our Breath"

(MV 150)

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...  
Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.  
Comfort us. When we know you are near  
we brow more certain, our vision is clear.  
Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.  
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,  
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.

Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

*The Christ candle is extinguished.*

*Our prayers rise and are received into God's heart.*

## SENDING & BLESSING

*One:* Go in peace to be bearers of Christ's peace,  
and to love God's beloved world.

And may the gracious blessing of God -  
Life-giver, life restorer, and life sustainer -  
remain with you this day and always.

**Sung Response:** "Amen"

(VU 974)

*(Sing 2x)*

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

## POSTLUDE

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