

Trinity-Grace United Church  
**ORDER OF SERVICE - 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**MAY 12th, 2024**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT:** "How Great Thou Art"

(VU 238)

*Verse 2/3 words: J Austin*

Verse 1 (SOLOIST)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works thy hand hath made;  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

**Refrain (ALL)**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.**

Verse 2 (SOLOIST)

And when I think of Jesus' life of giving;  
A love so wide that no one is left out.  
No cross or tomb can stop the Word from living,  
And so, inspired, I raise my voice and shout:

**Refrain (ALL)**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.**

### Verse 3 (ALL)

In life, in death, in life beyond our ending,  
In God's great love is where we find our rest.  
With joyful hearts and thankful voices blending,  
The whole creation knows itself as blest.

### Refrain

(SOLOIST)

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.

(ALL)

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,  
How great thou art, how great thou art.

## CANDLE LIGHTING

## OPENING RESPONSES

*One/All:*

We gather to worship the One  
who crafted creation out of chaos;  
**We gather to lift our praise to the One  
who gives us life and voice.**

By the power of God's spirit  
**we rise and embrace this new day,  
and the love that greets us as we worship.**

## GATHERING PRAYER

*Leader:*

God of love,  
plant us in the soil of your grace.  
Nurture us with the strength of Christ,

the vine of everlasting life.  
Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit,  
which flows through us today and all days.  
Abide in us, that we may abide in you  
and live in your love in a spirit of unity,  
caring for one another and your whole Creation.  
In your holy name, we pray.

**All: Amen**

**HYMN:** "Praise God for This Holy Ground" (MV 42)

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

*Refrain:*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
God's goodness is eternal.

2. Praise God in whose word we find  
food for body, soul and mind. *Refrain*
3. Praise God who through Christ makes known  
all are loved and called God's own. *Refrain*
4. Praise God's Spirit who befriends,  
raises, humbles, breaks and mends. *Refrain*
5. Though praise ends, praise is begun  
where God's will is gladly done. *Refrain*

**PRAYER FOR RELEASE AND RENEWAL**

*Leader/All:*

How many ways You have cared for us, O God;

How many companions You have given  
to share our difficult and joyous journey.

**And yet we forget Your care,  
and reject Your messengers.**

Forgive us for failing to recognize You  
in those who are different from ourselves.

**Forgive us for rejecting other people –  
children of Yours who are equally loved.**

Forgive us for believing the lie  
that says we can do it our way,  
and we can do it alone.

*(Silence is held)*

## A WORD OF GRACE

*Leader:*

“I am the vine, you are the branches”, says Christ.  
Here, in this place, a family connected through faith,  
we draw nourishment from God’s love and abiding spirit.  
Know that you are created for connection:  
For belonging and for abundant life,  
and that will always be in the care and love of our Mothering God.

**Response:** Behold, I Make All Things New”

*Soloist*

Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true for I am Christ the way.

**All**

**Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.**

**Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
my promise is true for I am Christ the way.**

## SHARING PEACE

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

**All: And also with you!**

*We take a moment to greet each other and share a sign of peace.*

## ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

*One:*

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
open our minds and hearts to receive your Word,  
so that we may recognize your call to us  
to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

**All: Amen.**

### READING

**John 15** (1-5, 7-8, 10-13, 16-17)

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. **2** God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit is pruned to make it bear more fruit.

**4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches.

**7** If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**12** "And this is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

**16** You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

*One:* This is the record of our ancestors in faith.

**All:** **May their witness reveal God's word for us today.**

## EXPLORING THE WORD

- Message by Rev. Sandra Nixon

## RESPONDING

**HYMN:** "Come In, Come in and Sit Down"

(VU 395)

*During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward*

*Refrain:*

Come in, come in and sit down,  
You are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
And we are a part of the family.

1. You know the reason why you came,  
Yet no reason can explain;  
So share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
For we are a part of the family. *Refrain*
2. God is with us in this place,  
Like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
For we are a part of the family. *Refrain*
3. There's life to be shared in the bread and the vine,  
We are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
But we are a part of the family. *Refrain*
4. There's rest for the weary and health for us all,  
There's a yoke that is easy and a burden that's small.  
So, come in and worship and answer the call,  
For we are a part of the family. *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

*Leader:*

Eternal abiding One,  
we give thanks for the joy you offer in our  
experience of your grace and love,  
as branches of the vine and members of the family of faith.

***All:***

**Bless all we offer as we dedicate our gifts  
to Christ's work of healing and reconciliation,  
through the life of this congregation. Amen.**

## CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

*We share announcements, insights, joys & concerns.*

## 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:**

**Our loving God in whom is heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "All Who Hunger"

(VU 460)

1 All who hunger, gather gladly;  
    holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering.  
    Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,



all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

2 All who hunger, never strangers;  
seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.

## SHARING GOD'S FEAST In the Sacrament of Communion

### Invitation to the Table

### Communion Prayer

*Leader:* God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Leader:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift our hearts to God.**

*Leader:* Let us give thanks to the God of life and love.

*All:* **We give the holy one our thanks and praise.**

*Leader:*

It is right that we offer our praise this day for the love of our God,  
the holy vine grower,  
who welcomes us, embraces us, beckons us in  
and nourishes us to bear our own fruit in love.

Through the ages, your Word has come to your people  
through the wonders of Creation,

in the voices of your prophets, sages and gospel writers,  
and in the testimony of poets, artists, storytellers, song writers,  
elders and children.

And you continue to speak to us in myriad ways,  
as your spirit moves to coax us towards a future where all people  
love justice, act with kindness, and walk humbly with each other  
and in harmony with living beings.

And so we join our voices with the whole of heaven and earth,  
as we make our joyful proclamation:

**Sanctus** (MV 203)

**O holy, holy, holy God,  
O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
Creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes  
And bears your name always!**

And we praise you, gracious God,  
that, in the fullness of time,  
you gave us Jesus Christ,  
a living vine rooted in You,  
that we, through him,  
might graft ourselves to You, the source of all good.

This is our story,  
That the life and death and resurrection of Jesus  
is the hope and model of our future.

We know that Jesus was both vine and wine.  
And in that mystery we celebrate  
the life that flows from vine to branch to stem to fruit;  
Divine love in human form, a life poured out for us.

Holy God, as Christ is the vine,  
so we are your branches, however we stretch to the sun.  
We live only because we are part of the vine,  
members of the family of faith  
and rooted in the community of your beloved creation.

So we are held within this story that we tell, of the last night  
when Jesus ate with his friends:

That on the night he was betrayed he took the bread  
And after blessing it he broke it  
and gave it to them, saying:  
“This is my body which is broken for you.  
As you eat it, remember me.”  
Take and eat – and each time you eat – remember.

And at the end of the meal he took the cup  
And after blessing it,  
he gave it to them saying:  
“This is my life, poured out for you  
As you drink it, remember me.”

And so we join this feast, this family dinner,  
as part of the family — and we remember.  
And we ask now that Your Holy Spirit, O God,  
through the mystery of grace found at this table:

***All:***

**Transform this bread and cup,  
that they may be for us a real and present sign  
of our oneness as branches of the true vine,**

**and our communion with the self-giving love of Christ,  
as we offer ourselves to become bearers  
of his light, his wisdom, his love, and his life.  
Amen.**

## Sentences

*One:* He whom death could not contain, is present to us in this bread.  
He who redeems us and calls us by name now meets us in this cup.  
These are the gifts of God for the family of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Distribution of the elements

Communion is distributed - all are welcome to participate.

### In person:

*\*Please come forward for communion. You will be given a piece of bread (gluten free) by the first server (me). Please consume the bread and then move to the second server where you can take and drink a glass of grape juice.*

*\*If you do not wish to receive for communion for any reason, you are welcome to come up to the front and receive a blessing from Rev. Sandra. Simply place your hands over your chest to indicate you would like to receive a blessing.*

*\*If you are unable to come to the front, please remain seated and you will be served at your seat.*

### Online:

*Please have a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice (or your preferred substitutes) ready and consume them as you receive them.*

## COMMUNION

*One:* Jesus Christ, bread for the journey.

**All: Amen.**

*(The bread is eaten)*

*One:* Jesus Christ, the cup of blessing.

**All: Amen.**

*(The juice is consumed)*

## Communion Hymns:

“One Bread, One Body” (VU 467)

*Refrain:*

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.

- 1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. *Refrain*
- 2 Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. *Refrain*
- 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all. *Refrain*

“Eat This Bread” (VU 466)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to me and never be hungry;  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in me and you shall not thirst.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All:**

**O Jesus Christ,**

**We pray that all who have celebrated this meal  
will remain connected in one another, and remain in you,  
that you will transform us into  
the branches and the fruit,  
the vine and the wine,  
the life lived out so that all may have life.  
Amen.**

**HYMN:** "Draw the Circle Wide"

(MV 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.

1. God the still-point of the circle,  
'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms. *Refrain*
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call. *Refrain*
3. 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*

## **SENDING & BLESSING**

*Leader:*

We have spent this time in God's presence  
and though we leave this place and time of worship,

we can abide still in the presence of God.

May the strength and courage,  
the love and mercy that flows through the vine of Christ,  
move through us as we go to whatever life holds for us;  
not to inspire us alone,  
but by that presence flowing through us,  
to inspire the world and bear the fruit of love.

*The Christ candle is extinguished*

**SUNG RESPONSE:** "Amen"

VU 974

**All:**

**Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen!**

**Amen, Amen, Hallelujah, Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

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