

Trinity-Grace United Church
November 5th, 2023
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT: "Lord, Prepare Me"

(1st time- soloist, 2nd time - all)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
for your spirit, for Christ's loving view;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you.

CANDLE LIGHTING

INVITATION

(One/**All**)

There's a pulling in our hearts

Calling us here.

There's anticipation and wondering

Calling us here.

There's thirst and hunger

Calling us here.

God calls us to sabbath and to praise
to community and to abide in grace;

In gratitude and let us worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

(Leader)

Transforming God,
you take the night and give us day.
You take our strife and give us peace.
You take our sadness and give us joy.
You take our fear and give us courage.
You take death and give us new life.
O God, we praise you for your self-giving,
in the name of Christ who enriches our lives with grace
and in the power of the Spirit who prays within us
when we cannot find the words. **Amen.**

HYMN: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (VU 288)

- 1 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.

Refrain

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!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

- 3 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. *Refrain*

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

(One/All)

From the bustle of the week,
The accomplishments and the distractions,
and the frustrations and disappointments,
we gather again in prayer, O God.

**We confess that while we dwell in your love,
we don't always show it;
While we are offered your peace,
we don't always dwell in it.
And while we say we're people of hope,
there are times when we can't find it.**

For those realities,
and for the specific things about how we have been in your world
and with your people, things that are weighing us down today,
ways in which we've stumbled and mistakes we've made,
opening our hearts to you...

(Silence is held)

A WORD OF GRACE

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 and share a sign of peace.

ENCOUNTERING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

(One)

God of the generations,
the Scriptures are a legacy to us from your faithful people over many centuries.
Just as your Spirit inspired poets and prophets, evangelists and epistle writers,
and guided their translators again and again,
send your same Spirit to inspire our understanding of Word
and our response to live by its wisdom,
for the sake of Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Matthew 25: 14-30

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’

²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground.'

Here, now you have what is yours.'

²⁶And his master replied, ²⁸You unworthy slave! Take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

One: For the living word of God in scripture,
and among us, and within us:

All: Thanks be to God!

EXPLORING THE WORD

with Rev. Sandra Nixon

RESPONDING

HYMN: "Let Us Build A House" (MV 1)

During the hymn, the offering box is brought forward

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

In the example of Jesus, we are encouraged to look beyond ourselves. Our gifts enable us to participate in God's tending of our community and beyond. They are a symbol of our care; a tangible reminder of our desire to make a difference.

Prayer of Dedication

(All)

**Holy one, with these offerings,
we seek to open our hands and hearts.**

**May our gifts may be entrusted to Christ's ministry
of hospitality, justice and peace
as we seek to care for your creation and all your people.**

Bless all we offer this day, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY

We share announcements, insights, joys & concerns.

HYMN: "All Who Hunger" (VU 460) - v.1&2

- 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.

WE SHARE GOD'S FEAST
In the Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving
(One/**All**)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks to the God of love.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(One):

Right and good it is, O God, to give you thanks and praise for the many ways we experience your delight, beauty, and mystery in our lives and in the world.

We thank you that from the beginning of creation,
as your spirit moved over the face of the deep, you have been with us -
in dazzling stars and crashing waves; in waving trees and the changing seasons;
in skipping children and wise, wondering sages.

We thank you not only for the beauty of this very moment
but for the way you, as beauty, pervade all our moments of communion:
the look in another's eyes; the sound of a simple song;
the touch of a warm embrace; the taste of freshly baked bread.
All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you;
all that is lovely, all who are loving – point to you as their fulfillment.

And we thank you for mystery,
for the gifts of living on this ever-moving edge
between the fading past
and emerging future.

As eternal presence,
you enfold us in the stories of our traditions,
the wisdom and love of our saints,
and the promises of the future,
enabling us to rest in the sure and certain knowledge
that we are yours, now and forever.

As Spirit of Life, you move amongst your people,
breathing into us compassion, love, creativity,
and a vision of your realm of justice, wholeness and peace.

And so, with all those who have come before us,
we join with your whole church, past and present to praise you, singing together:

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!**

(One):
Gracious God,
we remember and give thanks also that into your creation came Jesus,
In whom your intention to carry all Creation into wholeness was manifested.

We remember his life and teachings, his compassion,
His self-giving love, even to death, and his rising to life breathing forgiveness,
revealing the hope of redemption.

When Christ came into the world, a path was lit for humanity -
a way of sacred wisdom, forgiveness, and compassion;
a path that makes room for all, with love at the centre.

As we prepare to participate in the memorial he asked his followers to keep,
We pause to widen our circle and offer our prayers the world and those we are
thinking of today.

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)

**O Breathing Life,
Your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.**

**Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold
of others' faults.**

**Help us not forget our Source,
yet free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song
From gathering to gathering.
Amen.**

- Retranslation from the Aramaic

(Leader):

And now, Holy One, as we gather at your table, we remember how,
on the night before he died, Jesus gathered with his friends for a final meal.

He broke bread and helped them to understand
how he was giving himself as nourishment for a spiritually hungry world:

“This is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you eat together, remember me.”

And when the meal had finished,
he helped them understand

how he had poured himself out completely
to help humanity perceive the emergence of God's kin-dom:

"This is my life poured out for you.
Whenever you share the cup,
do this in remembrance of me."

(ALL):
Gracious God,
may your ever-present Spirit
bless these gifts and this gathering.
Grain & grape, gifts of the earth:
may these elements become sacred
in the sharing of this meal,
sacraments of your unfolding story of love,
for the transformation of our hearts
And the mending of the world. Amen.

(Leader)
Jesus, Christ, our alpha and omega,
eternal word and love incarnate,
is present to us in this bread.

Jesus, Christ, the he one who redeems us
and calls us by name,
now meets us in this cup.

One: 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 stay seated for communion. Servers will be bringing around pieces of gluten free bread and cups of grape juice. Please hold onto them! We will be eating and drinking together.

Online:

Please have a piece of bread and a cup of grape juice (or your preferred substitutes) ready to consume at the prompting of the worship leader.

Hymn during the Distribution: "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*

COMMUNION

(Leader):

Jesus Christ, a life offered in love,
bread for our journey.

All: Amen. *(The bread is eaten)*

(Leader):

Jesus, Christ, a life poured out for the world;
the cup of blessing and new life.

All: Amen. *(The juice is consumed)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All)

(One):

Creator of all,
through this meal, help us to love as Christ loved.

(All):

**Knowing our own weakness,
may we stand with all who stumble.
Sharing in his suffering, may we be light to all who suffer.
Held in his love, may we embrace all whom the world denies,
as we become, with Christ, an offering
in the the service of your kin-dom
of wholeness, peace and love.
Amen.**

HYMN: "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours" (MV 171)

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.

1. 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*
2. 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*
3. 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*

4. 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*

SENDING & BLESSING

AMEN: "Sing Amen" (VU 431)

Sing 2 times

Amen, we praise your name, O God

Amen, we praise your name, O God

Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

POSTLUDE