

Trinity-Grace United Church  
ORDER OF SERVICE  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Ordinary Time  
International Bog Day  
July 28, 2024

It is not the objective proof of God's existence that we want but the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle we are really after, and that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get.

Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

**INTROIT:** "Spirit of Life"  
(1st time: solo, **2nd time: All**)

VU 381

**Spirit of life, come unto us;  
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 us close, wings set us free;  
Spirit of Life, come to us, come to us.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

*The Christ candle is lit.*

**OPENING RESPONSES:** (adapted from Kevin Bailey)

*(One/All):*

Surely God is present in this place.

**God is present everywhere**

•  
Let us open our hearts to God's presence  
in this place, and at this time.

**We seek ways to discern God's presence  
in all places, and at all times.**

As we gather, let us remind ourselves--and one another--  
that God is present in every place,  
and at all times.

**God is in all people, in all things,  
in all places, and in all circumstances.**

To see God where we expect to find God,  
we open our eyes.

**To see God in every place and time,  
we must open our hearts.**

**GATHERING PRAYER:**

*All:*

**Voice of the voiceless,  
strength of the powerless,  
wisdom of the foolish,  
we give thanks for your parables of life,  
which challenge our conventional wisdom,  
disturb our cherished expectations,  
and call us from our places of comfort and security  
into the wild hope  
and unimagined possibilities  
of your beloved community.**

**May your fierce and tender Spirit  
inspire our worship  
and shape our lives  
into living parables,  
that we may be agents  
of your pervasive**

**subversive,  
and unstoppable love.**

**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 AND RENEWAL:** (adapted from *Sacredise*)

**All:**

**We have grown familiar with chains.**

**Stumbled into by accident,  
or carefully crafted by our own vice,  
we have become used to their cold weight.**

**At times we even draw comfort from them,  
finding a broken sense of identity in our victimhood,  
or a platform for our self-righteous anger and violence.**

**And so our world remains imprisoned...  
by the way we choose control and aggression  
over peace and mutual understanding;  
by the way we idolise quick answers and quick wealth  
over preservation and careful management of natural  
resources;  
by the way we allow our self-interest and greed  
to overshadow the lives of the poor and hungry who die  
each day;  
by the way we prefer hiding in a fortress of pride  
over making things right and letting others into our  
hearts.**

**But, if we will listen, we can hear a voice  
making a new way through this desert,  
offering a new hope,  
and gently seeking to loosen the chains.**

**Help us, Jesus, to follow this voice;  
lead us like a Shepherd,  
save us, and free us;  
so that, as our chains fall away,  
we may loosen the chains of others.**

**Amen.**

*Time for silent prayer*

## A WORD OF GRACE

### SHARING PEACE IN SONG: “The Peace of the Earth” (x2)

The peace of the earth be with you  
the peace of the heavens too;  
the peace of the rivers be with you,  
the peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God’s peace growing in you.

*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:*

Word of God, open our hearts to hard words and deep truths.  
Nudge us with Spirit  
to recognize the message you have for us today,  
and by your love and grace  
inspire us to take your message  
into our hearts,  
into our lives,  
and into your world.

***All:* Amen.**

### READING: John 6: 1-21

*This morning’s reading is from the sixth chapter of John’s gospel, but the material presented here is not typical of the gospel as a whole. The reading consists of two stories also found in the other gospels, and it does not feature the long discourses*

*which characterize much of the rest of John. The stories are familiar—in one Jesus feeds a large crowd from very meagre provisions; in the other, he walks across a raging sea to get home to Capernaum. Along the way, he also evades a crowd who want to make him king. There are interesting variations in the way the different evangelists present the stories, and these differences tell us something about how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John understood who Jesus was.*

After this, Jesus went away across the Sea of Galilee (also called the sea of Tiberias). A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs he was doing for those who were sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. The Passover, the festival of the Judaeans, was near. Looking up and noticing a large crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where might we buy bread so that they may eat?” He was saying this, testing him, for he himself knew what he was about to do. Philip answered, “Two hundred denarii-worth of bread is not enough for them, even if each takes only a bit.” One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, “There is a child here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what is that among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a great deal of grass in the place, so the men, numbering about five thousand, sat down. Jesus took the bread and, giving thanks, distributed it to those who were seated, and also the fish in the same manner, as much as they wished. When they were full, he said to his disciples, “Gather up the left-over pieces so that nothing is lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. But the people, seeing the sign he had done, said, “Surely this is the prophet who is coming into the cosmos.”

But Jesus, knowing that they were about to come and carry him off in order that they might make him king, withdrew again up the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea. Getting into a boat, they started across the sea toward Capernaum. By this time, darkness had set in, and Jesus had still not come to them. The sea became rough, because a great wind was blowing. When, having rowed three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, they were terrified. But he said to them, “I AM—do not be afraid. So they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land toward which they were going.

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

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

## EXPLORING THE WORD

### RESPONDING

**HYMN:** "In the Quiet Curve of Evening"

VU 278

In the quiet curve of evening,  
in the sinking of the days,  
in the silky void of darkness,  
you are there.  
In the lapses of my breathing,  
in the space between my ways,  
in the crater carved by sadness,  
you are there.

Refrain:

You are there, you are there, you are there.

In the rests between the phrases,  
in the cracks between the stars,  
in the gaps between the meaning,  
you are there.  
In the melting down of endings  
in the cooling of the sun,  
in the solstice of the winter,  
you are there. Refrain

In the mystery of my hungers,  
in the silence of my rooms,  
in the cloud of my unknowing,  
you are there.  
In the empty cave of grieving,

In the desert of my dreams,  
in the tunnel of my sorrow,  
you are there. 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:*

Holy One,  
as you are faithful to us,  
may we be faithful to you:

*All:*

**faithful with our time and energy,  
faithful with our possessions and wealth.**

*One:*

Receive these gifts by your grace.

*All:*

**Multiply and use them  
Through the power of holy spirit  
To make real your reign  
Of love, justice, and peace in our world.  
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:**

**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.

Refrain:

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 lived renewed. Refrain.

## SENDING

*\*The Christ candle is extinguished\**

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

## BLESSING

**SUNG RESPONSE:** "Go Now in Peace"  
(sing 2x)

VU 964

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
May the love of God surround you,  
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

## POSTLUDE