

Trinity-Grace United Church
ORDER OF SERVICE
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 7, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

INTROIT: "Spirit of Life"

VU 381

(1st time: solo, **2nd time: All**)

Spirit of life, come unto us;
Sing in our hearts 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.

OPENING RESPONSES & CANDLE LIGHTING

(One/All):

Christ calls us to praise and prayer,
to song and silence.

Christ calls us to worship.

Christ calls us to hearing and healing,
to service and solidarity.

Christ calls us to love.

Christ calls us to advocacy and action,
to protest and provision.

Christ calls us to justice.

We hear the call of Christ.

We worship together with joy.

The Christ candle is lit

GATHERING PRAYER: (Adapted from Ted Loader, "Guerrillas of Grace")

All:

**Holy and Eternal, gentle us into an unclenched moment,
a deep breath,
a letting go of heavy expectancies, of shriveling anxieties,
of dead certainties,
that, softened by the silence, surrounded by the light,
and open to the mystery,
we may be found by wholeness, upheld by the unfathomable,
and filled with the joy that is You.
Amen.**

HYMN: "I Am the Dream"

MV 106

I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.

You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

PRAYER FOR RELEASE AND RENEWAL

(Adapted from Steven Shakespeare, "Prayers for an Inclusive Church")

All:

**God of true abundance,
in whom nothing is lost and all are fed,
liberate us
from meagre rations of scarce and grudging love
for which we must compete;
show us another way which stills our all-consuming fear
and fills us with new hope.
This we ask through Jesus the Christ,
the peace of creation. Amen.**

Time for silent prayer

A WORD OF GRACE

SHARING PEACE IN SONG: "Heaven Is Singing for Joy" VU 230

Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
For in your life and mine is shining the glory of God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
For your life and mine unite in the love of our God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x2)

Heaven is singing for joy, hallelujah!
For your life and mine will always bear witness to God.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x2)

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,
sometimes your Word seems so clear to us,
yet at other times it is a puzzle or a challenge.
Send your Holy Spirit to guide us
as we listen to the Scriptures today.
Help us hear your Word for our times and our lives
through the grace of Christ, your Living Word.

All: Amen.

READING: Ezekiel 2: 1-5 (The Inclusive Bible)

The Voice said, “Mere mortal, stand up, and I will speak with you!” As it spoke, spirit entered me and raised me onto my feet, and I heard these words:

“Mere mortal, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that revolted against me; they and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day. The people to whom I send you are defiant and stubborn. You are to say to them, ‘Thus says the Sovereign Name!’ And whether they listen or they don’t—for they are a rebellious house—they will know that a prophet has come among them.”

READING: Psalm 123 (Responsive)

VU 847

(One/All):

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you who are enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to their master’s hands,
as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to you, O God,
as we wait till you show us your favour.

We have had more than enough of contempt.

**Too long we have suffered the scorn of the wealthy,
and the contempt of the arrogant.**

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

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

EXPLORING THE WORD

"A world in exile..."

The Rev. Brian Burke

RESPONDING

HYMN: "The Earth and All Who Breathe"

VU 295

The earth and all who breathe
exist through love divine,
who formed the sea, the flowering tree,
the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child
created from the dust
is called to share creation's care,
a sacred living trust.

The good abundant earth
is ours to tend and keep,
yet land lies waste consumed in haste,
and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build
new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation's joy,
their missiles terrify!

Creation now awaits
humanity's rebirth
at last to claim one common aim:
to nurture life on earth.

Awake all humankind,
the challenge now embrace,
apply your strength, your voice, your means,
as stewards of God's grace.

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:

God, you have brought us together
as a community of welcome and hope.
Receive our gifts and our gratitude this day.

All:

**Bless what we bring and what we do,
that this church may be a vessel
for healing and justice-making,
in Christ's name. 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: "Touch the Earth Lightly" VU 307

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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