

Sunset United Church



February 21, 2021 – Lent 1

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

Reader: Ross Macnab (he/him)

Special Music: Ross Macnab and Corinne Groff

Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements.

Centering Music & Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship*

God meets us in the night –

Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.

God meets us in the day –

Where joy is found to grow,
Where laughter is contagious.

Where flowers bloom from cracks
in the sidewalk,

And where people gather around the table.

God meets us at the threshold –

At the edge of the water,

At the beginning of the wilderness,

At the start of something new,

On the edge of faith.

And if God meets us in all those places,

Then surely God meets us in between –

Staying with us through the wilderness.

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of the here and now.

Hymn: MV#135 Called by Earth and Sky

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*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

1. *Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean's dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.*

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.*

*This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

3. Precious these mountains,
ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.*

4. Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.

*Free of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.*

*Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky,
Called by earth and sky.*

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*:

God who meets us where we are –
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.
You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, “This is my beloved.”

We know that you are with us too –
In the good, the bad, and everything in between –
But so often we act like we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you while
living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step,
You are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.

Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*:

Family of faith,

If you hear nothing else today,

Hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you.

God meets you at the edge of every new beginning.

And God calls you beloved.

We are refreshed by the water.

We are called beloved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**Sung Refrain: VU#278 In the Quiet Curve of
Evening (verse 3 only)**

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

Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU#121 Tree of Life and Awesome Ministry
(1st Sunday verse only) ****

*From the dawning of creation
You have loved us as your own;
Stay with us through all temptation,
Make us turn to you alone,
Make us turn to you alone.*

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination*

Scripture: Genesis 9: 8-17
Mark 1: 9-15

Hymn: MV#144 Like a Healing Stream

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- 1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.*
- 2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.*

3. *Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.*

4. *Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love
both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea.*

*like a river strong,
like a gentle rain,
like a healing stream.*

Reflection

Special Music: Be Still, My Soul, Before the Lord

-Sung by Ross Macnab and Corinne Groff

-Accompanied by Shirley Hill

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

Hymn: VU#644 I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry ^^*

1. *I was there to hear your borneing cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

2. *I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.*

3. *When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.*

4. *If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.*

5. *In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.*

6. *When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.*
7. *I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.*

Lenten Benediction*

Postlude



* Prayers by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

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