

Sunset United Church



March 14, 2021 - Lent 4

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Barbara Flaten-Orr (she/her)

Reader: Denelle Hansen (she/her)

Special Music: Barbara Flaten-Orr (she/her)

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*

Before we were born,

Before we took our first breath,

Before the week started,

Before the year started,

Before we said, "I love you,"

Before we said, "I'm sorry,"

Before we figured out who we really are,

Before we figured out who we want to be,

Before it all –

Fully and honestly –

God loved us.

Again and again, this is where our story begins

Let us worship God.

Hymn: MV#145 Draw the Circle Wide

*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.

*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.*

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

*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.*

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.*

*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.*

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*:

God of love,

We forget the beginning of the story –

That we were made from love,

To be love,

To give love.

Instead of rooting our narrative

In the goodness refrain of creation,

We skip ahead and find our worth at the fall,

With Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.

We forget that first there was you,

And you are love.

We forget that out of that love you created us.

We forget that from the very first day,

You loved us first.

Forgive our low self esteem.

Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.

Forgive our hesitation to trust that

Even we could be made good.

And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on-

From generation to generation.
Write a new beginning for us
That roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.
With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*:

Family of faith,
No matter what we do, where we go,
Or what we tell ourselves –
 Again and again, we are claimed,
 Held, forgiven, and cared for.
 In the name of the lover, the Beloved
 And Love itself –
 Thanks be to God. Amen!

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
 (4th Sunday verse only) ****

*Give us eyes to see you clearly,
Make us children of your light;*

Give us hearts to live more nearly
As your gospel shining bright,
As your gospel shining bright.

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination*:

Scripture: Ephesians 2: 1-10
John 3: 14-21

Hymn: VU#365 Jesus Loves Me *^*

1. *Jesus loves me, this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
in his love we shall be strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

2. *Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me'*

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

3. *Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

Reflection

Special Music

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

Hymn: VU#333 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ^^^*

1. *Love divine, all loves excelling
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.*
2. *Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive,
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing*

*serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.*

3. *Finish, then, thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be,
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

Lenten Benediction*:

Postlude



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

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