



# Sunset United Church



March 21, 2021 – Lent 5

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: Aaron Orban (he/him)

Special Music: Tara Fensom (she/her)

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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\*

Every week is a new week,

Another chance to say:

**“Here I am. Use me.”**

Every day is a new day,

Another chance to say:

**“Thank you for yesterday.**

**Thank you for tomorrow.”**

Every hour is a new hour,  
Another chance to say:

**“Again and again, make me new.”**

We do not come to this time to stay the same,

**We come to this time to be changed.**

So let us worship the Holy One,

Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is  
creating something new.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Hymn: MV#12 Come Touch our Hearts     \*\***

1. *Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.*
2. *Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.*
3. *Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.*

4. *Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.*
  
5. *Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart,  
our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,  
come touch us with your grace.*

### **Call to Confession\***

**Gracious God,  
We want to see you.  
We want to be known as the people  
Who looked for Jesus;  
But not only that,  
We want to be people  
Who have your covenant  
Written on our hearts.**

**Why do we feel so far away  
From this at times?  
What went wrong?  
Where did we lose our way?  
Could you, would you,  
Once again, write on our fragile hearts?  
We would be so grateful.  
Amen.**

## **Words of Forgiveness\*:**

Friends, despite our wonderings  
Despite our distractions,  
Despite wrong turns time and time again,  
We are known and loved by God.  
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,  
God will never stop waving us home.  
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**Our fragile bones are held  
by the Great Creator.**

**Our fragile hearts are loved  
By the Great Creator.**

**Our tender spirits are forgiven  
By the Great Creator.**

Today is a new day.

**Again and again, we are forgiven;  
Again and again, we are reformed.  
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  
(5<sup>th</sup> Sunday verse only)      \*\*\*\*

*God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death;  
Hold us close through each tomorrow,  
Love as near as every breath,  
Love as near as every breath.*

## WE LISTEN

**Prayer for Illumination\*:**

**Scripture:**    Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
                  John 12: 20-33

**Hymn:** VU#703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

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- 1. In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*
- 2. There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,*

*bringing hope to you and me,  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

- 3. In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

## Reflection

**Special Music:** Tara Fensom  
(playing O Danny Boy on the Violin)

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer\*

**Hymn:** VU#697 O for a World

^^\*\*

- 1. O for a world where everyone respects  
each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.*

2. *O for a world where goods are shared  
and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared,  
equality achieved.*
  
3. *We welcome one world family  
and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity  
and gives our vision voice.*
  
4. *The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.*
  
5. *O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
Where time and tears will be no more,  
And all but love will cease.*

## **Lenten Benediction\*:**

### **Postlude**



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

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