



# Sunset United Church

March 27, 2022 – Lent 4

*Full to the Brim: Prodigal Grace*

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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 Words

Centering Music

Lighting the Christ Candle<sup>1</sup>

Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

God's reach is endless.

**God's mercy is unstoppable.**

God's grace is lavish.

**God's love is constant.**

God's wisdom is vast.

**God's hope is stubborn.**

God's presence is here –

**With us, among us, moving through us,**

Breathe easy. Breathe deeply.

**We are in God's house.**

Let us worship the One who welcomes us home.

Hymn VU#376 Spirit of the Living God<sup>3</sup>

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

The prodigal son isn't given a name,

But we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

For who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us hasn't forgotten

That we belong to one another?

Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn't given a name

But we know his name.

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

*-Silent prayer-*

### Words of Assurance

Family of Faith

The word 'prodigal' can be defined

As wasteful or imprudent,

Hence the name, "Prodigal son"

However, 'Prodigal' can also be described  
As extravagant and excessive.

Friends, we worship a prodigal God -  
A God who is extravagant in mercy  
And excessive in grace.

For no matter how many times we run,  
No matter how far we go  
Or how lost we get,  
God is standing at the end of the driveway  
Waiting for us.  
The doors are open.  
The feast is for you.  
This grace is extravagant.

**Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Sung Response MV#115 Behold, Behold I Make All  
Things New<sup>4</sup>**

**Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,) I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,) I make all things new,  
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.**

**Sharing the Story**

**Hymn VU#639 One More Step Along the World I Go<sup>5</sup>**

**One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.**

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough,  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me,  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:  
And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.

## WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture     2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
                  Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Special Music

## Reflection

Hymn VU#360 A Woman and a Coin<sup>6</sup>

A woman and a coin – the coin is lost!  
How much it means to her, what time and toil,  
what part it was to play in her bright dreams!  
Am I that treasured coin worth searching for?  
I'm found, and you rejoice! What love! What love!

A shepherd and a sheep – the sheep is lost!  
Far from the flock, the one in hundred cries,  
then, risking life, the shepherd's voice and staff!  
Am I that treasured sheep worth dying for?  
I live, and you rejoice! What love! What love!

A parent and a child – the child is lost!  
The parent feeds on memories and hope,  
the prodigal on husks and one last chance.  
Am I that treasured child worth waiting for?  
I'm home, and you rejoice! What love! What love!

Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost,  
you gave your only son at what a cost;  
your spirit welcomes home the tempest tossed:  
now we can be all you were dreaming of.  
We're safe, and you rejoice! What love! What love!

Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU#266 Amazing Grace<sup>7</sup>

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

When we've been there  
ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

Sending Forth and Blessing

Amen (*Traditional threefold Amen*)

*Postlude*



**Minister:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



<sup>1</sup> Prayer adapted from one written by Juanita Austin found in *Gathering: L/E 2022 (year C) Prayers for Worship*, page 30. Used with permission.

<sup>2</sup> Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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