



Sunset United Church

March 6, 2022 - Lent 1

Full to the Brim: Even in the Desert



*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 Candle¹

Call to Worship²

Jesus went to the mountain top to pray

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

But Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go

That God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house.

Let us worship together.

Hymn MV#30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker³

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea.

Refrain And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore.

Refrain And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the summer breeze joins the song,

Refrain And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's a chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

Refrain And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, when we think that expansive life
Is about power –

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life
Is about material wealth –

Teach us a new way.

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life
Is about control –

Teach us a new way.

Teach us to live as you live

Teach us to love as you love.

Forgive us when we don't.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

Siblings in Christ,
No matter how many times we mess up,
No matter how far we wander,
No matter how lost we feel,
God's grace is full to the brim,
It overflows in desert places,
It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy.
Hear and believe this good news:

God's love is overflowing.

We are drenched in mercy.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Sung Response MV#104 Know That God Is Good⁴
Know that God is good, know that God is good,
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

Sharing the Story

Hymn MV#196 We Will Take What You Offer⁵
We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
we will love on another and be led by you, Lord.
We will take what you offer, we will live by your word;
we will love one another and be led by you. Lord.

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Luke 4:1-13

Special Music

Reflection

Hymn VU#109 Now Quit Your Care⁶
Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry;
for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.
Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication;
God brings new beauty nigh;
reply, reply, reply with love to love most high;
reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.

To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes,
or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal;
but to be led to where God's glory flashes,
God's beauty to come near.

Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear;
Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear.

For is not this the fast that I have chosen
(the prophet spoke) to shatter every yoke,
of wickedness the grievous bonds to loosen,
oppression put to flight,
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right,
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right.

For righteousness and peace will show their faces
to those who feed the hungry in their need,
and wrongs redress, who build the old waste places,
and in the darkness shine.

Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine!
Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine!

Then shall your light break forth as does the morning;
your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring
God's glory bright, your way through life adorning;
and love shall be the prize.

Arise, arise, arise and make a paradise!

Arise, arise, arise and make a paradise!

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#113 To the Desert Jesus Came⁷

To the desert Jesus came,
to wrestle and to seek God's way.
Sun and moon rose high above
to watch him as he'd fast and pray.
Together through the valley,
the tempter led him around.
Together through the valley,
so Jesus answers found.

Like the Hebrew long ago
who ventured through the desert sand,
did he find a rock of faith,
where streams of living waters ran?
Together through the valley,
so shall we make our way.
Together through the valley,
we'll walk for forty days.

In the desert we may find
the mystery of who we are,
following a faithful God
so very close and yet so far.
Together through the valley,
we'll gather our dreams in prayer,
together through the valley,
and find God's presence there.

From the ashes to the hill,
we'll travel on our Lenten road.
Hand in hand we'll cross this sand,
and share each other's heavy load.
Together through the valley,
we'll watch the changing sky.
Together through the valley,
as Easter's dawn draws nigh.

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)



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

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