

Sunset United Church

March 7, 2021 – Lent 3

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: Dave Towers (he/him)

Special Music: sung by Rev. Lori Erhardt (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*

Again and again,

We come to this time.

Again and again,

We gather as a community.

Again and again,

We move closer to God.

And again and again,

God is here.

We are met.

We are heard.

We are shown the way.

So again and again,

Let us worship holy God.

Hymn: VU#389 God is Here **

1. *God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share:
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*
2. *Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit,
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here in newness and renewal
God the Spirit comes to each.*
3. *Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore*

*what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.*

4. *God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe.*

Call to Confession*

Prayer of Confession*:

God of Justice,

We are guilty of building tables.

**We have built tables that oppression dines on,
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

God of Justice,

We are guilty of forgetting where we are,

**Of turning faith into a negotiation tool
And the church into a place for insiders.**

God of Justice,

We are guilty of ignoring the point;

**For you taught that the temple
was for worship and your message was for all.**

God of our hearts

Be in our decision making.

Draw near to our choices.

Forgive our mistakes.

And as you do,

**Flip every table, habit, belief,
Or point of view that needs adjusting.**

With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*:

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
(3rd Sunday verse only) ****

*Living Water of salvation,
Be the fountain of each soul;
Springing up in new creation,
Flow in us and make us whole,
Flow in us and make us whole.*

WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination*:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25
John 2: 13-22

Hymn: VU#117 Jesus Christ is Waiting

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1. *Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.*

2. *Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.*

3. *Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets:
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.*

4. *Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.*

5. *Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.*

Reflection

Special Music: *sung by Rev. Lori Erhardt*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer*

Hymn: VU#120 O Jesus, I Have Promised ^^^*

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
2. O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Lenten Benediction*:

Postlude



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

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