



Sunset United Church



March 8, 2020 - Lent 2A

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey

Choir Director: Nancy Edwards

Pianist: Shirley Hill

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Invitation

Opening Hymn: MV14 When Two or Three are Gathered

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

As long nights give way to light

And winter sleep to fresh beginnings

We come today to be reminded

Of God's love for us.

Like the green shoots of renewed life,

Stirring beneath the soil.

We welcome an awakening

Of God's word in our lives.

In this time of reflection and repentance

**We affirm our identity, we claim our security,
As children of God.**

Come, children of God, let us worship God

Opening Prayer

Loving God,

As we continue the Lenten Journey,

Remind us that with your love,

We have the strength to follow you.

As we worship today,

Surround us with your presence.

Make yourself known to us

In what we express, in the songs we sing,

And in the prayers we offer.

Reveal yourself in the people around us,

That we might be reassured

That we are not alone on this journey.

As we follow you,

We are aware that you call us to places

We may not want to go.

Be with us.

Renew our resolve

And show us the courage to travel with Jesus,

As we seek to grow in faith.

Amen.

Hymn: VU382 Breathe on me, Breath of God.

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation:

During the season of Lent,

We focus, in part, on our relationship with God.

Confession is one of our relational avenues

For turning back to God.
Confession is the means by which
We look deeply inside to discover the ways
Love has been blocked by our self-interests.
Confession is our way of opening our heart
Unreservedly to God.

Let us invite God's healing love
To soften our hearts,
Opening the way for wholeness.

By offering our prayers:

God of love and grace,
I come to you as a stubborn,
Stiff-necked person.
I come to this place filled with hope,
But regularly distracted.
As you gather me under your wing,
Help me to stay focused on
Being the person you call me to be.
Soften my stiff neck
So that I become aware of those around me,
Noticing the full complexity
And diversity of your creation.
Help me crane my neck
And know the difference between distraction
And your call to service.
But most of all,
Soften my heart so that I may faithfully
Live your call.

- *Silent reflection* -

Words of Assurance

Sung Response: VU619 Healer of our Every Ill

Passing the Peace

WE LISTEN

Anthem: Hem of Your Robe

Sharing the Story

Hymn: VU229 God of the Sparrow

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-4a
John 3: 1-17

Reflection

Hymn: VU308 Many and Great, O God, are Your Works

WE RESPOND

Offering Collection and Dedication

Hymn: VU#538 For the Gift of Creation
Offering Prayer

Lenten Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Hymn: VU582 There's a Spirit in the Air

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude