



The Season of Lent

March 27, 2022

Prelude

Welcoming

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ, the Life and Light of the world,
as we travel through this Lenten journey,
lead us from ignorance to enlightenment,
from denying you to self-denial,
from shadows to light,
from fasting to feasting,
from death to life eternal.

Call to Worship

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.

Centering Hymn: We Are One (Voices United 402, vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smith 1988, Music: Jeeva Sam 1987; arr. David Kai 1999

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Arrangement © 1995 David Kai

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1 We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.

2 We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.

Call to Confession

If you ask any parent with a teenager what it's like to wait up for their child to meet curfew, they will tell you—they're standing at the door. The porch light is on. No one can sleep until that child is home safe. Friends, I think God is like that for us. The porch light is on. The door is unlocked. We might be late for curfew, but God is just so glad we're home. So let us pray the prayer of confession together, trusting that no matter what we do or what we leave undone, the porch light is always on. Let us pray...

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 whom 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. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

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. The grace is extravagant.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Spirit of the Living God (Voices United 376)

Words v.1: Daniel Iverson 1926, v.2: Michael Baughen 1982

Music: Daniel Iverson 1926, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987

Words (v.1) and Music © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music

Words(v.2) © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

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- 1 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.
- 2 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!

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Sam Boehner)

Reflection: Homecoming

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who waits in the driveway for us.

We believe in a God who leaves the porch light on and throws a feast when we are found.

We believe in a God who doesn’t stop looking for us when we get lost.

We believe in a God of prodigal grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

In response to this grace, we hold tighter to each other.

We remember that humans are not meant to go through life alone; so we look for ways to welcome each other in, to live like we are family, and to lead with grace—excessive, extravagant, over-the-top grace.

We believe that this is our call.

Let it be so. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: O God, How We Have Wandered (VU 112)

Words: Kevin Nichols 1980; alt., Music: Henry T. Smart 1836

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- 1 O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.
- 2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

3 O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Offering Invitation

All that we have, all that we are, our feasting and our fasting,
we offer to God.

As we honour the gift of time and talent that we have shared during
the week, the gifts of money offered through PAR, through the
website, and on the collection basket this morning, we pray:

Offering Prayer

**Patient and empowering God, bless these gifts and use them for
your purpose in the world.**

Bless our own gifts and inspire us to see your path for our service.

**Guide us to let hope prevail where despair has taken hold, to let
compassion grow in the place of judgment, to let peace flourish and
heal the fractures of the world.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves

The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn: We Are One (Voices United 402, v. 4)

Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smith 1988

Music: Jeeva Sam 1987; arr. David Kai 199

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4 We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

Benediction

As you leave this place or device,

may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,

may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,

and may it change your life.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—go in peace,
full to the brim. Amen.

Postlude

Worship Leaders – Bill Cantelon and Nancy Walker

Music Leader – James Yi

Vocalists – Margaret Bates and Blyth Hughes

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey

Scripture Reading – Sam Boehner

Technical Support – Sam Boehner, Karen Clark,

Sascha Enns and Jayda Perry

Greeters – Jean Hazemi and Orma Paton

*Flowers for the service are offered by Karen Clark
in celebration of the life of her father, Bill Angell.*