

**Smyrna United Church of Christ**  
**Order of Worship**  
**March 15, 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**



Ringing of the Peace Bell/Passing of the Peace  
Ringing of the Worship Bell

Prelude

\*Call to Worship

God sees us as we are:

We are young, old, and living in between;  
We are married, single, widowed, and divorced;  
We are created with different orientations;  
We are many races blended together and bound by history and fate;  
We are happy and sad, and sometimes angry or afraid;  
We are healthy and ailing, strong and weak;  
We are rich, poor, and somewhere in the middle;  
We all have abilities, and disabilities too—we need one another;  
We have believed; we have doubted; and still, we wonder;

So come, let us worship the wondrous One, who knows and loves us all.

Hymn #547 – “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

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 fear relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose 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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Help us, and forgive us, O God. Look upon us, your people, and grant us your saving grace. Hear us as we lift up our silent prayers to you, and put a new and right spirit within us.

Assurance of Pardon

Old Testament Reading – Exodus 17:1-7

\*New Testament Reading – Romans 5:1-5

The good news of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

Meditation – “The View from the Window”

Hymn #543 – “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of clan and race,  
Above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, we see your face.

In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

O Savior, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain,  
Among these restless throngs abide, O tread the city's streets again.

#### A Quiet Time of Prayer

Prayers of the people  
Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

#### Gathering of the Gifts

\*Offering response (doxology)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen

\*Prayer of Dedication – (Unison)

Thank you, Lord, for the many gifts that surround us this spring season – the sunshine and the rain, the flowers and the new growth. Help us to plant wisely in all parts of our lives so that we may reap a harvest of hope. Bless that which we do in your name. We give a portion of that which we have received to further your will in the world, for we know that you care greatly for the widowed and the orphaned, for the sick, for the poor, and for the lost. Bless these gifts and help them to bring hope to your people and to your Creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please e-mail Pastor Deb your announcements for next week.

Tuesday, March 17 -- Diaconate meets at 1 pm and Church Council at 7 pm  
Friday, March 20 -- BEHOLD!! deadline  
Other announcements are below.

\*Closing Hymn #419 – “Now Thank We All Our God” (Verses 1-2)

Now, thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,  
Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us still in grace and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

\*Dismissal with blessing

Benediction Response – “Now Thank We All Our God” (Verse 3)

All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,  
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Needed now at the Molalla Service Center:** Pancake mix, baking mixes, instant hot cereal, tuna, juice, and sugar.

**Children for Change in March and April** will go to support the work of “Camp To Belong” which provides an opportunity for siblings separated through foster care to be reunited for a week of camp during the summer. There are camps in several states, including one in Oregon hosted by Kindred Matters (June 21-26, 2020). Here is more information about Kindred Matters in Oregon: <https://kindredmatters.org/>. And here is more about Camp To Belong: <http://camptobelong.org/about/>.

**A Celebration of Life** will be held for Rod Bullard on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at noon with a lunch to follow.

### Happy Birthday!

16<sup>th</sup> – Violet Humphreys, Kristin Wishon

17<sup>th</sup> – Halaina Crispin

19<sup>th</sup> – Donald Hammock