

Smyrna United Church of Christ
Order of Worship
March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Ringling of the Peace Bell/Passing of the Peace
Ringling 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 gay, straight, and other;
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 #553 – “There is a Balm in Gilead:

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 – Psalm 91:1-6

*New Testament Reading – Romans 8:31-39

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

Meditation

Hymn #491 – “Awake My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve”

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)

Loving God, we know that this is a time of trial for so many. Bless these gifts that we offer, bless our gathering together in Spirit, and bless our lives, that we may be instruments of your healing and peace. Hold us close, and let us hold close those near and far who face so many challenges in their lives, as we make our lives offerings of compassion. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Closing Hymn #438 – “When Peace, Like a River’

*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.

Happy Birthday!

Today – Katherine Holt

23rd – Marina Daniels

27th – Heather Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Needed now at the Molalla Service Center: Funds to help them purchase food from the Oregon Food Bank.

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/>.

Please watch HeartLine and the Smyrna Facebook page for upcoming announcements.

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10-12 -13

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." For most the walk toward health is filled with both success and failure. Unfortunately, the failures often create obstacles that prevent us from restarting. Love yourself as God loves you.

We are not tracking miles on our Journey to Jerusalem (health) during the temporary halt on physical meetings. This does not mean we are not still striving to be the best stewards of our health that we can. We can still go for walks on our properties, maintaining a safe 6-foot distance from others. We can do exercises in our homes. We can get at least 7 hours sleep per night. We can eat healthy, nourishing meals (with minimal boredom, shelter in place snacking!) And we can email or call others to check on their wellbeing, (and for our own emotional health during this time of limited social interactions!) These things all help keep our immune systems healthy and more resistant

GRACIOUS GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE PROMISE THAT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME. AMEN

