

TOUCH OUR LIVES, Heal Our World!



*O Lord, the Healer of nations
and lands, Hear, O Lord, the
lamentations of your people
"Restore us to yourself,
O Lord, that we may be
restored!"
(Lamentations 5:21)*

Art work: Trellly Marigza, Philippines

Gathering Music

Welcome

Announcements

- Christmas Wreaths

Aboriginal Acknowledgment

We gather, here, on the land on which members and Elders of the local Indigenous community and their forebears have been custodians of for many centuries and on which First Nation's people have preformed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of the region. We will continue to educate ourselves and work for reconciliation.

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we light this candle, we are reminded of the bush that burned, but was not consumed. And God was present.

All: As we gather as a community to worship, let us trust and follow the voice of God in our midst. The Holy Spirit is present.

Call To Worship:

All: We come to worship God at this time of uncertainty and vulnerability. As we face an unprecedented threat to not just our wellbeing but to our very survival, let us pray together to our Almighty God to strengthen our faith and keep our hopes alive.

MOMENT OF QUIET

Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, you have been our comfort in times of anxiety and hope in times of distress. You are mindful of those who are neglected and victims of prejudices. We draw our strength from the well of your grace and loving kindness. We affirm the dignity of life of your people and the whole of creation. We pray that the *struggles* and sufferings of your people move us into action towards a healing and a caring community. Amen.

Opening Hymn # 684 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

1. Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
2. Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

3. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we are born to eternal life

Learning with Children: A Handful of Prayers

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
When we pray,
help us remember all the children,
who need your help through us.
Help us to be giving and kind in all we do.
Amen

Scripture: From the Gospel of Matthew 11: 28-30

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Words after scripture: May God bless our understanding of this reading.

Reflection:

Hymn #344 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes the sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.

2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

3. Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

4. Jesus, my Savior, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

5. The effort of my heart is weak,
and cold our warmest thought;
but when we see you whom I seek,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Offering

With joy of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church, our offering has been made.

Offering Hymn #541 "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Blessing the Offering

Loving God, thank you for the gift of life.

We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which binds us together in love around the globe.

Free us from our doubts and prejudices, we pray.

Inspire us to live in solidarity with people crying out for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Accept our least coins as tokens of our prayers. May this offering support women and girls all over the world.

Accept our offering, the work of our hands and the joy of our heart, for the life and work of our church, Trinity United, here and in the world.

We pray this in Jesus' name. **Amen**

Hymn: #703 "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness
bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

Presentation of Flowers – Cynthia Sirett

Every year the UCW chooses members of the congregation that over the years have made an impact on the life of the church.

This year we honor Lois Hunter, a matriarch of the women of the our church. She is a role model of grace and dignity.

And

Arnel Pattemore, who is receiving flowers in recognition of all his hard work through the years. He is always willing to share his adventures with us and show off his souvenirs.

Prayers of the People/ Lord's Prayer—Marguerite Cameron

Closing Hymn #421 "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence"

1. Lead on, O cloud of Presence,
the exodus is come,

In wilderness and desert
our tribe shall make its home.

Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.*

2.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar,
we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing
though joy be born of tears.

We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

3.

Lead on O God of freedom,
and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise
through struggle and delay.

We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand.

Commissioning: *(Karen Kay Pamaran, Philippines)*

Go with the tender remembrance of those who have gone before us.

Go with all the warmth and fondness of their memory.

Go, calling to mind their courage!

Blessing:

And may the Creator God, Defender of the broken,
Source of all Wisdom, and Healer of the afflicted
breathe into you anew the courage and the conviction
to persist and insist on life!

May Jesus, inspirer of our deep solidarity,
and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and companion in the work ahead,
bless you and keep you, now and always! **Amen.**

Choral Amen / Postlude

Hymns are printed with permission under license:
CCLI 3273096 and One License A.735850