

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Creator be with you and all creation.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to the Maker of heaven and earth.

It is right to join creation in thanking God.

It is right to give you thanks, loving Creator. Your Word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your Spirit is the life impulse in all things, renewing the barren and healing the wounded, groaning in anticipation of a new creation, stirring a new life born of water and the Spirit.

You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and rise from death to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit.

Your presence is the living impulse in all things, the Christ deep among us, filling Earth—land, sea and air—filling every element and place, filling the grain and the grape we share with you this day.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us.

**Holy, holy, holy, God of all life,
Earth and sea and sky are full of your presence
and glorify your name.**

And yet, in Jesus you were not immune to the storms of life. He knew the challenges of our interconnectedness. The harsh ways we treat one another by segregating who is in and who is out.

Who gets to sit at the table and who doesn't.

Who gets to purchase whatever they want and who gets judged when they don't buy the cheapest things.

Who gets listened to and given a seat at the table and who, at best, gets to peer in through a window.

Who gets to blindly live into and out of their privilege and who has to fight for every scrap.

He wrestled with grief and loss.

Had friends who became ill and died.

Had moments of stormy testing and violent upheaval.

Yet those weren't the only experiences.

There was also the experience of hope

And joy

And peace

And justice

And welcome

And belonging

And family

And community.

And so even amidst the storms of life, the ones that bring us deep challenge and confronts us with the realities we'd sooner ignore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was born.

Christ has died.

Christ will come again.

We remember that when the storms of life toss us about and we feel like we're going to be overwhelmed and all hope is lost, Jesus broke bread and reminded us that a seed must be broken open for new life to emerge, the storm must happen to stir up the silt, the blizzard is needed for moisture in the spring. This bread is a reminder that storms do not have the last word.

Likewise, he took a cup and reminded us that grapes must be crushed, diamonds are made from coal, and pressure builds resiliency and strength. This cup is a reminder that transformation is part of the journey of faith. It is part of what it means to be human.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, Holy One, for the opportunity to gather around a table of radical inclusion. A place where even the storms of life do not define or limit us. Where we can be one with you and with one another. Accepted. Valued. Wanted. Affirmed. May this experience build us up so that whatever tomorrow may bring we can deal with it together. Amen.





Trinity United Church

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You are...Wanted...Included...Affirmed

Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 10:00 AM

Theme: Unwrapping Claiming

† indicates stand as you are able

MV = More Voices

Bold indicates participation by the people

VU = Voices United

Core Values: Living Faith - Inclusive Fellowship
Joyful Service – Being Anti-Racist – Affirming All

GATHERING AS COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

WELCOME & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hadih, welcome in the name of The Christ.

All: Welcome to this place of worship, situated on the Ancestral and unceded lands of the Lheidli T'enneh people.

Welcome to this place of blessing, this space of grace, and this holy sanctuary.

This place where we discern how to live into the way of Jesus.

All: We gather this morning to share in song, word, and prayer, to publicly, intentionally, and explicitly affirm that we are all an expression of the divine's holy light.

Be welcomed.

All: Be present.

Be a blessing.

LIFE & MINISTRY (Announcements)

THE PEACE OF CHRIST SHARED WITH ALL

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you.

GROUNDING SONG: *Arise, Your Light Is Come* **VU#79**

LIGHT OF CHRIST AND RECONCILIATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

L: Here, there, near, far,
at home, far away, high,
low, the deep, the sky, anywhere, wherever, home, away.

P: **No matter where we are,
whatever storm we are in,
whatever squall, whatever uproar, whatever
commotion,**

L: God is there, here,
now, holding us in worship.

GATHERING PRAYER & PRAYER OF JESUS (Worship Assistant)

AFFIRMING GODS LOVE AND GRACE (Responsive)

A new year...God is present in us in the fullness of our diversity and expression.

Like a star shining bright, God's love for us shows us the way and grounds us in the reality of God's presence in our lives. Together, we are part of that light. Together we share it with one another and the world. Together we risk following God into this new year.

† HYMN: *Come and Find the Quiet Centre* **VU#374**

A STORY FOR THE AGES

(Lectionary@Home: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; and Mark 1:29-39)

FOCUS READINGS: Psalm 139:1-12 and Luke 8:22-25 (NRSVUE)

Reader: In these words, the Holy becomes known.

Many: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: *Chariot's Comin'*

SERMON: *It's Gonna Be Dark and Stormy*

TIME FOR REFLECTION: A time for quiet reflection and contemplation

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS, OURSELVES, AND THE WORLD

BEING THE CHURCH THROUGH SERVICE

† HYMN: *Deep In Our Hearts* MV#154

SHARING OUR GIFTS FOR MINISTRY

†OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

God of wisdom and care, doubt and faith, we make our offerings of time, talent, energy, and money for the good of your church. Accept them for what they are, symbols of our true offering – our daily attempts to follow your way, to face what life throws at us in hope and in faith. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

†COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

†HYMN: *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery vs.1&4* VU#93

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP TODAY: *Worship Leader – Rev. Bob Fillier; Worship Assistant – Gabriele Slater; Pianist – Vic Steblin; Choir Director – Erica Skowron; Associate Choir Director – Diane Kjørven; Adult Choir; Digital Ministry – Rebecca Fillier*

