

## CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP – IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

MARCH 7, 2021

To those joining in person: thank you for remaining masked, keeping distance,  
and NOT singing for now.

### GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE AND BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND HOPE

*Inspired by Exodus 20:1-17 and Psalm 19:1-4 by Elsa Anders Cook*

We have ordered our days as best as we could in this season. It has been a whole year and we have tried to be faithful, even if we've had to stay in our homes.

We come to worship today needing to hear some word of good news.

We come to worship today listening for what we have forgotten or ignored about your steadfast love in these days that we are just trying to survive.

Today, we come to hope still. To the candles of hope we've lit before, we light yet a third, this time in prayers as we remember empty places at the tables of our friends and families, of all those we've never known. As they grieve, as we grieve, may all discover your hope and comfort.

*Time of silent remembering and prayer. light three candles along the front of the altar*

We come together, O God, waiting for you to speak. Pour out your speech and declare your knowledge. We are ready, God. We are ready. Let us worship God.

### OPENING HYMN

*Sanctuary 2x*

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for you.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*based on Psalm 19 and Exodus 20 by Kathy Swaar*

Your perfect law—if we will let it, Holy One—revives, instructs, enlightens, sets free.

But, we confess, we don't much like that word. "Law" sounds too strict; too divisive; too "Thou shalt not"; too judgmental. And there's already too much of that going around these days.

Help us see past those narrow perceptions, God of Mercy, to what you originally intended: a way home; a blueprint for maintaining relationship, which is at the heart of your heart.

Remind us that those words we see only as proscriptions are in fact the framework that enables us to relate in healthy ways, to one another and to you.

Forgive and heal us, Sacred Presence, when we put people and things before you,  
when flashy idols capture not just our attention, but our hearts.

Forgive us when we misuse your name, and those of our brothers and sisters,  
when we use words to deny, to denigrate, to criticize, to shame.

Forgive us for all the ways we dishonor the Sabbath, our ancestors, the planet, ourselves,  
and those we share our lives and world with.

May these words of confession, and the prayers of each heart, be received and welcomed by you, Author of Life, and may your grace and peace restore and fill us. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 20:1-17

**MORNING REFLECTION**

All These Words

**HYMN OF RESPONSE***Change My Heart, O God**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.**You are the potter, I am the clay.**Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.**Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.**Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.***BLESSING OUR GIVING**

As we consider your laws and words, we discover we have the responsibility of bringing life to the world around us. Bless our giving of our resources, and of ourselves. May they be expressions of your love for us. Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer after receiving:

Thank you, O Lord, for this feast of life. We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life. We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts. We are now commissioned to:

feed as we have been fed,

forgive as we have been forgiven,

love as we have been loved.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

**BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH**

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