

PALGRAVE UNITED CHURCH

March 03, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sing a New Song.

The lighting of the Christ Candle

Introit

Welcome and Announcements.

Acknowledging the Land

Call to Worship

Let us offer ourselves to God in worship.

God is our shelter, protection, and guide.

We want for nothing. So let us practice thanksgiving!

God invites us to places of peace and beauty. God will restore us.

Let us practice Sabbath rest.

Even when anxiety and fear threaten to overwhelm us, when depression and despair have us in their hold, and it seems like death would be easier than life,

Even then, we need not fear. We will trust in God and practice surrender.

For you, O God, nourish us even when trouble and enemies are all around.

You claim us as your own and call us by name.

Our cup overflows and we will practice joy!

God's compassion and grace are with us every day,

And we will make our home in God's love and peace.

Let us worship God, our guide and our refuge.

(Written by Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, inspired by Psalm 23)

Hymn: O Jesus, I Have Promised VU 120

Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, you have invited and encouraged us on this journey, reminding us of the struggles we face and of the hope we have in you.

You ask us to let go of the things that prevent us from serving freely, but we can't seem to let go of the hurt, fear, and pain.

On this journey, remind us again of your healing love, your forgiving power.

Help us to trust the goodness and potential for good that you have placed in all of us.

We have come to this place to hear your word, to sing and pray to you in hope.

Enable us to find the courage to really believe in you, that your healing love may fill our hearts and minds and prepare us for witness and service. We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

Prayer of confession

This is the season of turning. We are called on this journey to turn our lives to the Lord, to turn away from all those things which have harmed us and others, to separate ourselves from actions and attitudes that demean and destroy.

We hurt, Lord. We hurt in our bodies and our souls. We hurt in our relationships with others. We don't want to be like this - we want to feel the warmth of your love, the freedom of your spirit, the joy of serving you, and the happy embrace of family and friends.

Forgive us for our selfishness and stubbornness. Heal us. For we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Hymn: Spirit Open My Heart. MV 79

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8
John 2: 13-22

Sermon: A Time To Be Angry

Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Waiting. VU 117

Prayer of Intercession and Thanksgiving.

Offering

Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me. VU
567

Blessing and Benediction

Closing Chorus: Go to the World (Verse 2) VU
420

Postlude