



Sunrise over the Lake



**THE 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
A Service of the Word**

March 7, 2021 ♦ 10:00 a.m.

The 3rd Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude — “Deck Thyself My Soul, with Gladness” by Bach

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

Call to Worship

One: Breath of the Divine, prepare our hands for a touch

Many: A new and different touch

One: Prepare our hands for a touch

Many: A touch of encounter

One: A touch of awakening

Many: A touch of hope

One: A touch of feeling

Many: Many are the worn-out gestures

One: Many are the movements frozen in time

Many: Many are the useless excuses just to repeat attitudes.

One: Give us daring and courage to create new titles of community

Many: New links of affection

One: Breaking away from old ways of relating,

Many: Encouraging true, meaningful ways to move into closeness with Feminine Wisdom. Amen.

Hymn — “We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Prayer of Confession

One: O Lord, we've heard the old, old story and we confess our sins of indifference.

Many: God, jolt our lives to turn and look at You once more.

One: Give us the ears to hear your amazing story that God would become one of us living among us, teaching us, sitting down at table with us, breaking bread and drinking wine with us, and then dying among us. Amazing grace!

Many: Breath of the Divine, we ask for your presence this day. Brush against us when we least expect it. Touch us with your Spirit of Wisdom. Shake us awake to live out the good in us that you bestow.

One: We are your people and you are our God. Forgive our times of faithlessness, see beyond our apathy, our thoughtlessness, our self-centeredness, our wrong choices. See into hearts as we come to you as we are.

Many: We pledge once more to give to those who need us, that this world might be more human. May we turn toward You, O Holy One, in all that we do. Amen.

Silence is kept for personal confession and reflection.

PRAYER FOR MERCY: KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Assurance of Pardon

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

***RESPONSE:** "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up-on my heart, and live in me.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Book of Wisdom 6:12-16

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

Sermon — “Breath of the Divine”

Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

The refrain (“Take, O Take Me as I Am” – music above) is repeated.

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button.

Text: Text “StorrsCongChurch” to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. “StorrsCongChurch \$100”).

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.

Call to Offering

Dedication

Many: Spirit of the Living God, bless these gift that we offer from our hearts for the good works of this church and beyond. May our tithing, talents, and service help to make a difference in the lives of Your people. Amen.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Gil Martin

Adult Choir

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with The Lord's Prayer*

Many: 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 glory forever. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the Presence of Jesus Christ

Communion Hymn — “Here in This Place, *Gather Us In*”

this bulletin, pg. 9

Invitation to the Table

One: This morning, Jesus' table extends to all of humanity. People of all ages, of all gender identities, of all cultures, of all socio-economic conditions are welcome here.

Many: No one can earn a place at this meal. Come of your own choice.

One: This is the inclusive welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who desire a deeper relationship with the universal Christ are worthy and welcome.

Many: Bring your hope and your history.

One: Bring your worries and your doubts. Come as you are!

Words of Institution

We remember now Jesus' last supper with his disciples and friends; those who loved him and those who would betray him. He offered bread in thanksgiving saying, “Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way Jesus offered the cup of blessing saying, “Take and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for all people. Do this in remembrance of me.”

By the eating and drinking of these gifts, we participate in the body of Christ and in the new life that Christ gives each of us.

Consecration of Elements

One: At this table, we are one in the Body of Christ. I invite you now to rest your hands lightly, along with me, upon your bread and cup which we now share as sacrament.

Let us ask God's blessing upon them and to all in our prayers today.

Many: Breathe your Spirit of life and love, O God, so that this bread may be broken and gathered in love, and this cup poured out to give hope and solace to all.

One: All is ready. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing of the Elements:

The bread we share is blessed and broken.

As long as it is open to all, it is holy.

Sharing in God's love and mercy, we will never be hungry.

(Let us take and eat this bread of life together).

The cup we drink is blessed and shared like the overflowing of tears and joy.

Drinking deeply, we will never thirst.

(Let us take and drink the cup of blessing together).

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Many: In thanksgiving for this sustenance on our Lenten journey and the grace of holy dispersion in virtual worship, we claim the story of Jesus Christ as our own, a path of healing and service, the cross and the ever-present truth of the resurrection.

O Holy One, we come to you with our weariness and hope. Give us the strength of this Communion meal that we may re-turn our tables to service in the world. Amen.

News from our Life Together

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

this bulletin, pg. 10, 11

Benediction

Postlude

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

We Come to You for Healing, Lord 796

1 We come to you for healing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 Through nights of pain and wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, we know you come a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with power to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Unlike many hymns on the theme of healing, this text appropriately includes the ministry of medical personnel as instruments of God's healing activity. It also acknowledges that illness is not limited to physical symptoms, but involves mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions.

TEXT: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 2002
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938
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 Music Arr. © 1938, ren. The H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing)

LAND OF REST
 CM
 (alternate harmonization, 691)

Here in This Place

401

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-ter-y. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ter-s,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion,
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ple to-geth-er,

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주
 Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 날 마 다 자 비 를 배 푸 시 며
 All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
 오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

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- Litany of Confession – Adapted from *Litanies of Confession, in Searching for Shalom* by Ann Weems.
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If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latinacsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God’s love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to all. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We share in God’s love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

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Director of Music Ministries

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