

Service of Worship **Sunday, March 16, 2014 - LENT 2**

"Reflecting The Word"

Connecting with Life

In the movie "Chocolate" the dry mistral wind blows through the village disturbing and upsetting the villagers. In many cultures, the coming of wind is a warning of change. Wind cannot be controlled, but by studying and co-operating with the wind, we can drive windmills, create electricity, or sail boats.

- How does wind bring life and activity to the place where you live?

You are invited to rise in body or spirit, as you are comfortable.

Welcome & Sharing News or Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: The Light within all of life. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Opening Prayer (all)

God of Jesus, who shared our humanity, keep us company on this Lenten journey so that we may find the path to life. Amen.

(a windmill is placed on the communion table)

Reading: Life Giving Wind

Wind of God,
Blow through us and refresh us
Blow through us and heal us
Blow through us and bring us new life
Blow away things that prevent us
from seeing your life in the whole
of creation, and show us ways to
help the healing of your world. Amen

Call to Worship

L: Sometimes we are sure of our call but not sure of the destination.

P: Friends who travel with us, come -journey to God's place.

L: Sometimes we run out of energy and fear the future.

P: Friends who look with us for help, come - seek God's strength for life

L: Sometimes we think we are people of faith, but have more questions than answers.

P: Friends who long for deeper understanding, come find new new life in the Spirit.

L: And so we come as we are

P: We come to workshop God.

***Opening Hymn** – VU 402. "We Are One"

Hymn - VU 340. "Jesus Friend of Little Children " vs. 1, 2

Children's Time and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn –VI 340 "Jesus Friend of Little Children " vs. 3

Hymn - VU 140 "Lord Listen To Your Children Praying" verse one

Prayer of Confession

All: Creating God,
You are the divine energy who brought order from chaos,
mountains from the depths
living things from the dust of the earth.
In the darkness, hidden and unseen,
it was you who gave us life and made us flesh,
and by the breath of your spirit brought us to birth

Compassionate God
you are the love that enables us to live in trust,
bring us from fear to faith,
from our wandering to a way ahead,
from a sense of being condemned to knowing that we have eternal life.

Companion God,
you are the presence who disturbs us,
stirring us from complacency to action,
unravelling our tight structures so that we can reconnect in new ways,
challenging our long-held ideas and blowing our misconceptions out the window.

L: Wind of the Spirit,
you blow among us today.
What are we trying to hide from you?
Silence

L: Wind of the Spirit,
you blow among us today.
What worries are holding us back from trusting you?
Silence

L: Wind of the Spirit,
you blow among us today.
How have we closed our minds to serving you?
Silence

L: O Holy One, our private confessions we lift to you now in the sacred silence...
(silent prayer)

Assurance of Grace

L: God loves us so much!
In Jesus, has shared our suffering and our struggles,
our life and death.
God does not condemn us, but gives us eternal life!

ALL: With our inner breath, we receive new life;
with our outward breath, we offer our thanks.

Thank you God, for you gift of life. Amen

Sung Response - "On Eagles' Wings"

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand.

Gospel Reading – John 3:1-1

Spiritual Blessing - (in unison)

May the Spirit bless us with the wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our life.

Music for Meditation

MESSAGE - "A Visitor in the Night"

Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us affirm our faith together.
Look to the distance hills! From where does our help come.

**ALL: Our help comes from God,
who made heaven and earth
who sustains the universe,
keeping the sun in place and the moon on track;
who provides sunshine and shade
to nurture and protect life, day and night**

L: Look to the distance skies! From where does our help come.

**ALL: Our help comes from God
who showed such immense love for us in the person of Jesus Christ!
who came not to judge or condemn anyone but to give eternal life.**

L: Look around!! From where does our help come?

**ALL: Our help comes from God
whose Spirit is always at our side,
whose presence is like the wind
powerful, unpredictable, yet personal,
stirring us into new possibilities
and bringing about new birth.**

The Offering

Offertory VU 542 "We give you.."vs 1

***Prayer of Dedication (in unison)**

Loving and Giving God, accept these gifts and our lives, the work of care that they represent and our hope for a fuller life for others, that all may know the reality of your great love for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of the People

Prayer Flags -

Hymn – Hymn 625 "I feel the Winds of God Today"

Closing Prayer

***Closing Hymn** – Hymn 120 "Oh Jesus I Have Promised."

***Sending Forth Blessing**

L: God calls you to continue on life's journey in Faith

P: we go trusting in God.

L: God loves the world more than we can ever understand:

P: we go trusting in Jesus the Christ.

L: God is at work around us bringing new possibilities:

P: We go trusting the Spirit!

All: Bless our going out and our coming in, now and forever.

Amen.

***Sung Benediction** – "Go Now in Peace, Never be Afraid" Amen

Sources: "SpiritFusion Lent Easter 2014", Wood Lake Publishing;