

**Sunday March 15th 2020 Lent Three
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service**

Prelude *Pastorale* C. Franck

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Time of Silence: Let us be still in the quiet of our sacred space,
Be still and slow down your thoughts...
Savour a word or phrase or analogy from Scripture...
Listen to and for the Holy One ...

Lighting the Christ Candle S. Oja

*Hymn VU121 *Light of Life Beyond Conceiving* Haugen

Call to Worship and Gathering Prayer:

Spirit of Life, Who draws us together in a web of holy relationships,
Make your presence known with us and in us and among us.

**Remind us that we are not alone in history,
Ignite us with the courage of the living tradition.**

Remind us that we are not alone in entering the future,
Anchor us with patience and perseverance.

**Remind us that we are not alone in our times of grief and pain,
Comfort us with your spirit, manifest in human hands and voices.**

Remind us that we are not alone in joy and wonder,
Inspire us to honor and extend the beauty we find in this world.

Choir: *Music of the universe,*

*Let our hearts beat in diverse and harmonious rhythms,
Cooperating with an everlasting dance of love.*

May we move with the rhythms of peace.

May we move with the rhythms of compassion.

May we move with the rhythms of justice.

**Source of stars and planets and water and land
Open our hearts to all of our neighbors**

Open our souls to a renewal of faith

Open our hands to join together in the work ahead. Amen.

Time with the Children

Janet Gray

Children's Song MV145 *Draw the Circle Wide, verse 2*

The Tenebrae (Shelagh) The extinguishing of these candles symbolizes the light of Jesus, fighting to overcome the darkness. The closer we get to Good Friday, the less light there is. On Good Friday itself, even the white candle is extinguished, in addition to all of the coloured candles. The central candle, represents Jesus who we as Christians believe to be a sign of Emmanuel: God with us.. Each of the outer candles has a Lament attached to it. This week, the third candle that we extinguish is for the Lament of War. There couldn't possibly be a more timely occasion for this focus.

Robert Massoud: When we reflect on this theme of war, we are challenged to think about all the things we long for in this world. In our prayers, we hold so much hope for each person who comes into our consciousness every day. We hope they can feel safe, wherever they live. We pray for the day when all men, women and children can be treated equally and fairly by all. . We lament that it is not true for millions of people with whom we share Planet Earth today. We hope that personal histories of those experiencing war and searching for peace may be shared bravely so others may learn of the pain war inflicts today.... So for this third week of Lent, it is indeed our hope that you will be reminded that one day all of the righteous hopes for our lives, as well as hopes for this broken world, will be fulfilled.

In the meantime, we must continue to strive to bring this hope wherever we go as we strive to be one of the many signs of God in the Heart of the City.

Scripture: John 4:5-30; The Woman at the Well Alec Krawciw
This is part of our story. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem *Come To the Water* Foley

Reflection: A Conversation with: Robert Massoud Rev Shelagh MacKinnon

We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has rarely been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.