

**Sunday February 20, 2022**  
**A Good Measure Will Be Poured Into Your Lap**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Where do we find you, Holy One, and how do we follow? May we hear and sense your presence informing our lives in this worship service. As you find me at your table,

**People: We'll share your food.**

Leader: As you find me in your resources,

**People: We'll share your riches.**

Leader: As you find me in your power,

**People: We'll share your mercy.**

Leader: As we find me in your pain,

**People: We'll share your forgiveness.**

Leader: As you find me in your generosity,

**People: We'll share all, and expect nothing in return.**

Leader: As you find me in community, seek my holiness,

**People: We follow you in love, generosity, joy.**

Leader: As you find me in the world, share my desire:

**People: We follow you in justice, mercy, peace for all.**

**Opening Prayer Unison**

**Holy One, you are deep within our world,  
calling us to join you in creating  
abundant life for all.**

**Open our hearts to recognize you**

**Free us to trust your call and follow;**

**Enable us to repent, and forgive,**

**and join in your work to make "all things new".**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

**Hymn #170: Your Ways Are Not Our Own**  
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

*Hymn Leader: GCC Choir*

- 1) Your ways are not our own, O gracious God most high,  
Yet we would follow in your paths and on your love rely.
- 2) Christ teaches us to bless the ones who curse and harm,  
To turn the other cheek when struck, attackers to disarm.
- 3) Yet, we cannot excuse abuse in any form,  
For all are children of your care, and love must be our norm.
- 4) How shall we show your love, your pardon to believe?  
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we receive.
- 5) Forgiveness is our joy, receiving, giving, too.  
Keep us from judgements hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

**Prayer of Confession Unison**

**Holy One, your call is deceptively simple:  
“Do to others as you would have them do to you”  
And yet we cling to self-serving ways  
which separate us from your beloved creation:  
You call us to turn our lives around,  
to risk repentance and learn forgiveness,  
to work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign,  
but we get discouraged and give up too soon.  
You call us to be full of joyful confidence  
to create community where all have enough for abundant life,  
but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.  
You call us to speak out in the presence of injustice,  
but too often we do not challenge words and actions rooted in hate:  
Holy One, have mercy.**

*Moments for Reflection and Silence*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Our God is good, and generous, and loving:  
Trust in Jesus' promise:  
“Give, and it will be given to you.  
A good measure, pressed down,

shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap;  
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

### **Passing of the Peace**

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you  
People: **And also with you!**

### **Reading**

Terry Henderson

#### **Genesis 45:3-11 (NRSV)**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

### **Special Music**

Susan Breon

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **Luke 6:27-38**

#### **Love for Enemies**

<sup>27</sup> “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not

withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

### **Judging Others**

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

### **Musical Interlude**

**Sermon:** A Good Measure Will Be Poured Into Your Lap

### **Music for Meditation**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Hymn #510** Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You (verses 1, 2 and 4)

- 1) Grant us wisdom to perceive you, hearts awakened to receive you, minds alert to thoughts that grieve you, God of mercy, hear us.
- 2) Grant us faithfulness in praying, strength to keep our souls from straying, sense to cease from disobeying, God of mercy, hear us.
- 4) Grant us courage to proclaim you, Savior of our lives we name you! May our actions never shame you; God of mercy, hear us.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer **Unison****

**Offering Invitation**

When we give our tithes and offerings,  
we are witnesses to the transforming love of God in Christ.  
I invite you to give as generously as you have received.

**Offering and Dedication **Unison****

**Accept these gifts, we humbly pray, O God.  
Let them give you honor and glory as we serve the needs of your people.  
And let the called and redeemed of God say, Amen**

**Benediction **Unison****

**Send us into the world, O Holy One,  
Ready to witness to your generosity and forgiveness  
Ready to be recognized as those who follow your Way  
Ready to shape a world of justice, peace and joy.**