

**Sunday March 20th, 2022
The Third Sunday in Lent**

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters. Come to the wells.

People: **Our souls thirst for you, O God. We lift up our hands and call on your name**

Leader: Come, without money. Come without cost. Incline your ears and listen for good news.

People: **Our flesh faints for you, O God. Our lips sing praises, beholding your glory.**

Leader: Come, eat good. Come, feast upon true riches. Be filled with that which sustains you.

People: **Our souls are satisfied in you, O God.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing with joy.**

Opening Prayer Unison

Author of abundance, God of change, we come into this hour with holy expectations. As we travel on our journey of transformation this Lenten season, we know that you are with us. You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road. Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsakes us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us when all can come and eat. Keep us forever in the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

Hymn #593: Lift Every Voice and Sing
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: GCC Choir

1) Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,

let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2) Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3) God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

Leader: God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves
as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be.
Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence
So that may prepare our hearts for change.

**People: We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the
midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have
strayed from the place where we met you.**

**Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps;
Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change.
There is another opportunity to bear good fruit
In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce, and systems designed
to kill. We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let
us lean with you into this chance for transformation.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in the change. God's everlasting
arms embrace us. Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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

Reading

Carol Bellamy

Isaiah 55: 1-9 (Revised Standard)

1 Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Harken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 Behold, you shall call nations that you know not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63:1-8

1 O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

2 So I have looked upon thee in the sanctuary, beholding thy power and glory.

3 Because thy steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise thee.

4 So I will bless thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on thy name.

5 My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat, and my mouth praises thee with joyful lips,

6 when I think of thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the watches of the night;

7 for thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings I sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to thee; thy right hand upholds me

Special Music

GCC Choir

Gospel Reading

Luke 13: 1-9

1 There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus?"

3 I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

4 Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem?"

5 I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

6 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?'

8 And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure.

9 And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Where is the Fruit?

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #75: Lord, Make Me More Holy
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: GCC Choir

1) Lord, make me more holy,
Lord, make me more holy.
Lord, make me more holy,
until we meet again:
Holy, holy, holy,
until we meet again.

2) Lord, make me more faithful,
Lord, make me more faithful.
Lord, make me more faithful,
until we meet again.
Faithful, faithful, faithful,
until we meet again.

3) Lord, make me more humble,
Lord, make me more humble.
Lord, make me more humble,
until we meet again.
Humble, humble, humble,
until we meet again.

4) Lord, make me more righteous,
Lord, make me more righteous.
Lord, make me more righteous,
until we meet again.
Righteous, righteous, righteous,
until we meet again.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

As recipients of the generosity of God, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

**For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community
We dedicate these gifts.
For the ways it'll help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors
We dedicate these gifts.
Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be good fruit in the
world.**

Benediction

Leader: As we go forth to bear good fruit,
May God be with us in our hunger and thirst.
May our ears be ever inclined, listening for the good news.
May praises be on our lips even in the bleakest valley
And May the God of peace equip us with every good thing
to carry out God's desire for the world.

People: **Amen.**