

**St. Paul's United Church**  
**Sunday, March 27, 2022**  
**– Lent 4**



**Welcome Back to In-Person  
Worship**

**Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam**

**Music Director: Victoria Warwick**

**Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick Dell, Catherine Ladouceur, Bruce Wilcox**

**Readers: Don and Sharon Penrose**

**Music: Sharon Foster, Hilary Warwick, Chet Valley Churches, Ecumenical Singers from 50 different countries**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS / CALL TO THE GATHERED**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**OPENING HYMN:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" sung by Chet Valley Churches.

1. Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!**  
**Morning by morning new mercies I see;**  
**all I have needed thy hand hath provided -**  
**great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

**Refrain:**

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

**Refrain:**

**OPENING PRAYER** read by Sharon Penrose, written by Karen Ptolemy-Stam

We gather this day, God of unconditional love, aware of the devastation of war and of broken relationships. May we, like the prodigal son, both individually and globally, rethink our priorities, face our regrets and move in the direction of peace and reconciliation. In this time of worship, may we learn to seek forgiveness, grant forgiveness and be open to new beginnings. Amen

**EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY**

**SUNG RESPONSE:** "Be Still and Know That I am God" sung by Hilary Warwick



**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32 read by Don Penrose

**SERMON:**

**Solo:** VU#364 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" sung by Sharon Foster

1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Christ, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
2. How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?
3. In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;  
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
4. O cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

#### **REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS**

**ST. PAUL'S REFUGEE WORK: OUR LENTEN PROJECT** – Carolyn Hendry

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER:**

read by Sharon Penrose, written by Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Your Amazing Grace, O God, reminds us all that we are both lost and found, embraced in your unconditional love. May we have the courage to return home to you no matter what we have done. We know you will never abandon us or your world. May we seek forgiveness when we have messed up, forgive ourselves and one another, and learn to love as the watchful father did in the parable told by Jesus. May we celebrate the relationships we have and treasure them. Let us not be jealous of others but grateful for those who are in our lives. We give you thanks for new beginnings.

We pray for the broken relationships of the many nations here on earth. Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and all the places in the world where there is destruction, violence and/or war. We pray for all refugees fleeing their homelands; longing for food, shelter and safety, wanting to go home but not safely able to do so. Work with our world leaders to find ways to live peacefully together as nations. Work with all of us to encourage love not hatred. Guide us to respond with open arms to those who are lost. May we be willing to share our lives and resources. May we make a difference in the world. Amen (followed by the Lord's Prayer)

**HYMN:** "Amazing Grace" sung by Ecumenical Singers from around the World

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now, I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace, my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
`tis Grace that brought me safe thus far, and Grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.
6. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now, I see.

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

