

Call to Worship

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who upholds us through adversity, who consoles us in our sorrows, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

A reading from Isaiah 54:10:

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

A prayer of lament:

We lament before you, O God, Comforter in our distress,
the losses this community has suffered.

We have missed our weekly assembled worship, our sharing of bread and cup,
our communal song, our greetings of peace;
the full in-person observances of Holy Week,
baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals;
In-person gatherings for education and coffee hours;
and we mourn friends and family who have died of COVID-19.
O God, we lament our losses, for they are many.

Restore us, gracious God.

Restore us, gracious God.

We lament before you, O God, Sustainer of the universe,
the tragedies that our world has experienced.

We lament the millions sickened;
the countless dead;
thousands unemployed;
medical systems depleted;
economic security threatened;
government assistance inadequate;
political discord escalated;
despondency rampant;
racial injustice intensified;
communal engagements canceled.

O God, we lament the world's tragedies, for they are incalculable.

Heal us, compassionate God.

Heal us, compassionate God.

Hymn

We've Come This Far By Faith (chorus)

ELW 633

We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord;
trusting in his holy word, he's never failed us yet.
Oh, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.
We've come this far by faith.

Praise on a Sunday of Re-Gathering

Yet today, O God of everlasting arms,
we rejoice at this re-gathering of our congregation: we praise you for Sunday worship;
for the personal presence and the online presence of the people gathered together; for
song and music; for Bible study; for the growth of our garden;
for service with one another for the wider community;
O God, we rejoice at this re-gathering for baptismal life together.
Empower our church, faithful God.
Empower our church, faithful God.

And we pray, O God of safe harbor, for the emergence of a wholesome world:
with health restored; mourners consoled;
vaccines available; hospitals restocked;
employment reinstated; poverty averted;
sustenance shared; science respected; travel resumed;
fear replaced with confidence; sorrow turned to joy .
O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.
Renew the whole world, merciful God.
Renew the whole world, merciful God.
Give us your peace, eternal God.
Give us your peace, eternal God. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Opening Prayer

Children's Sermon

Scripture — 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Scripture — John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Sermon

Refrain

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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Prayers

Offering

Spiritual Communion

In union, O God, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves to you and embrace you with all the affections of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live and die in your love. Amen.

A moment of silence for reflection.

Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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