

ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 7, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

RECOGNITION OF THE FIRST PEOPLE

SUNNY

*We recognize that the first people on the land that we gather on is the **Gabrieleño Tangva** people. With humility, we accept the responsibility of caring for the land.*

OPENING PRAYER

JAN

Mothering God—whose wisdom created us, whose strength sustains us, whose compassion guides us— open us to your love this day. Open our ears so we may hear the wisdom of our sisters from across space and across time. Open our eyes so we may see the ways they lead us. Open our hearts so the redeeming power of Christ may renew our faith and infuse us fully with your passion and grace. Amen.

WELCOME

KRISTINA/CHRISTOPHE

You Are Welcome!

*No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,
you are welcome here:*

If you are young or old, you are welcome.

*If you have brown skin, black skin, white skin,
or any other color of skin, you are welcome.*

If you are married or single, divorced or widowed, you are welcome.

If you are gay or straight, you are welcome,

If you are transgender, you are welcome.

If you identify as a man, woman, or gender non-conforming, you are welcome.

If you are an immigrant, refugee, or citizen, you are welcome.

If you cannot hear or see, you are welcome.

If you are sick or well, you are welcome.

If you are rich or poor, powerful or weak, you are welcome.

*If you believe in God some of the time,
none of the time, or all of the time, you are welcome*

...

You are welcome here!

Come with your gifts, your pains, and hopes, your fears.

Come with traditions that have helped you and hurt you.

Come with your experiences that have made you and broken you.

Come with a mind ready to engage and a heart open to discern.

***Come and listen for the Sacred Spirit that calls you to
love your neighbor wholeheartedly, seek justice,***

create peace and practice compassion

...

You are welcome here

SONG OF CELEBRATION

FEED YOUR SHEEP

ANDREA

CALL TO WORSHIP

MARYAN/AUREA

One: Let us gather to celebrate the gifts of women in our midst

All: We celebrate life and faith of women who have guided us

One: 다른 영적 은사가 있습니다. (There are different spiritual gifts,)

All: But the same Spirit.

One: हम में से कई हैं, (There are many of us,)

All: But the same Spirit who gives gifts.

One: May ibat ibang mga ministerio, (There are different ministries,)

All: Serving the same God.

One: Nous sommes appelés à servir de différentes manières, (We are called to serve in different ways,)

All: And we all serve the same God.

One: Hay diferentes actividades, (There are different activities,)

All: But the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

One: 我們都被稱為 (We are all called,)

All: And one God who calls and equips everyone for service.

One: Let us celebrate women whose faith have sustained us

All: Let us celebrate the women who have led us. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

OLABISI

God calls us to open our eyes and see ourselves in each living, breathing being on earth, but we don't always do that. We are called to transform ourselves so the world might come one small step closer to realizing God's love in all of us. Let us turn to God in faith.

First in silence ...

PRAYER OF WHO WE ARE

Let us pray with prayerful hearts.

Mother God, who gave birth to us through the molding and forming of the earth—you breathed life into our lungs and called us good. You made us a people to dwell together, but we confess something happened: we have distanced ourselves from your love, we have built walls between each other; what we don't see, we don't love, and what we don't love, we are fearful of. In your generous diversity, loving God, we have formed division—divisions made deeper by money, opportunity, violence, and arrogance. We don't want to hear the stories of those less fortunate than ourselves because it hurts. We don't want to see our siblings' faces who are hurting because we will feel responsible. We don't want to feel responsible because we will feel the need

to change. God calls us to be transformed, but we don't want to change. O God, help us to be open to Christ so we may change by the power of your Spirit and change into the image of Christ. Transform us by your love. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S LOVE

God hears our cries and longs to help us in our struggle. God hears our confessions and forgives us. May we take God's desire for transformation seriously and find ways to respond to God's forgiveness with acts of love and faith. Amen.

Please hug yourself with the love of Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC

RECKLESS LOVE

PHILIP

COMMUNION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

BONNIE

Gracious God, in you, is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word, and give us grace that we may understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom. Amen.

Scripture

Joshua 2:1-7

¹ Joshua chose two men as spies and sent them from their camp at Acacia with these instructions: "Go across the river and find out as much as you can about the whole region, especially about the town of Jericho."

The two spies left the Israelite camp at Acacia and went to Jericho, where they decided to spend the night at the house of a prostitute named Rahab.

² But someone found out about them and told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelite men came here tonight, and they are spies." ³⁻⁷ So the king sent soldiers to Rahab's house to arrest the spies.

Meanwhile, Rahab had taken the men up to the flat roof of her house and had hidden them under some piles of flax plants^[b] that she had put there to dry.

The soldiers came to her door and demanded, "Let us have the men who are staying at your house. They are spies."

She answered, "Some men did come to my house, but I didn't know where they had come from. They left about sunset, just before it was time to close the town gate. I don't know where they were going, but if you hurry, maybe you can catch them."

The guards at the town gate let the soldiers leave Jericho, but they closed the gate again as soon as the soldiers went through. Then the soldiers headed toward the Jordan River to look for the spies at the place where people cross the river.

Litany

**A litany in honor of women here and around the world
By Stacey Cole Wilson**

Wealthea/Michael

A litany in honor of women here and around the world

One: With holy reverence, we remember irreplaceable women, O God. We honor those who nurtured us and taught us to honor and love you, O God.

Two: May their example of Christian faith help transform us into your image.

One: We honor women who feed the hungry, clothe the unclothed, befriend the lonely, and comfort the comfortless. We bless them for unselfishly loving your people as you love us.

Two: May you continue to meet their needs as they minister to others.

One: We honor women grieving the loss of loved ones.

Two: May you, O God, continue to comfort them with your Word, spoken and blessed. May we learn to encourage them as they have encouraged us.

One: We honor women pregnant with your unborn sons and daughters, O God.

Two: May you shelter them and the children they bear under the shadow of your almighty presence.

One: We honor our sisters throughout the world who need your spiritual, economic, and physical healing.

Two: May you meet their needs, Holy One, according to your riches in glory, we pray.

One: We honor all the women who have gone before us, named and unnamed.

Two: We give you thanks, O God.

One: We bless those who wept for us, rejoiced with us, wiped our tears, prayed for us, and laughed with us.

Two: We give you thanks, O God.

One: We bless those who undauntedly sacrificed for us.

Two: We give you thanks, O God.

One: We honor all those who stand alongside and for these women. We bless those who encourage them to dream, who bring out the best in them, who help them bear their burdens, and who love them rightly, O God.

Two: May you watch over and keep all your people, these women and all who love them, with your care, gracious God. Amen.

MESSAGE

"Women's Contribution"
Lenten Series #3

PASTOR SUNNY

SHARING OF LENTEN CHALLENGE

THIS WEEK – PROMOTE JOY

NEXT WEEK – WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SONIA

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

COMMUNITY LIFE

CLOSING SONG

COME HELP US BUILD

ANDREA

BENEDICTION