

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

Worship Bulletin for fourth Tuesday of Lent: March 29, 2022



Welcome to Worship and Wonder!

Opening music: “Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Let there be peace on earth And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth The peace that was meant to be.
With God our Creator Family all are we.
Let me walk with my neighbor In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment And live each moment
With peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

Prayer

Music: "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." **(Refrain)**

2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **(R)**

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **(Refrain)**

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes. With bold new decisions your people arise. **(Refrain)**

Prayer

Sacred Story: John 16

16 "I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. ³ And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate^[a] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about^[b] sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to

you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

¹⁶ “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ They said, “What does he mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’?” ²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²² So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³ On that day you will ask nothing of me. ^[c] Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. ^[d] ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

²⁵ “I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. ²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷ for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ^[e] ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said, “Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”

Footnotes

- a. [John 16:7](#) Or *Helper*
- b. [John 16:8](#) Or *convict the world of*
- c. [John 16:23](#) Or *will ask me no question*
- d. [John 16:23](#) Other ancient authorities read *Father, he will give it to you in my name*
- e. [John 16:27](#) Other ancient authorities read *the Father*

Music: #283 “Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me, Spirit of the Living God,
Fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on me.

A Time of Wondering and Reflection

Phrases to ponder in our hearts: “to keep you from stumbling”; “when their hour comes you may remember”; “it is to your advantage that I go away”; “your pain will turn to joy”; “the hour will come”; “take courage; I have conquered the world”

Music #283 “Spirit of the Living God”

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A Time of Prayer

Final Song: “Amazing Grace (My Chains are gone)”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see...
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed...
(R) My chains are gone, I've been set free; My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns Unending love; Amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures
Refrain (twice)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below; Will be forever mine,
will be forever mine; You are forever mine

Final Blessing