

A Service of Worship
March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

We Gather at God's Call

What Doesn't Play by the Rules by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*I come into the room
calculating
what I've done,
as if hurt could be measured,
as if there was a score system,
as if we could say what I owe in return.*

*I come into the room
ready to apologize,
ready to make amends,
ready to tell you all the things I'll do to make it better,
but you put your arms around me.*

*Grace is the ocean
that softens the edges.
Grace is rain in the desert—
you're not sure whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.
Grace is a miracle,
all by itself.
In a scorekeeping world,
grace doesn't play by the rules.*

*I come into the room
calculating what I've done.
You say there's grace here.
It feels like a miracle.
I don't know whether to
laugh, cry, or dance.*

Introit

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Fairest Lord Jesus

-Wood

Greeting

*Call to Worship

Kath Wissinger, Worship Leader

We are ambassadors for Christ.

God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation.

We gather as God's beloved family

to worship God and offer our praise.

Let us join our hearts in song and in prayer.

*Hymn

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

*God, you spin the whirling planets,
fill the seas and spread the plain,
mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.*

*We, created in your image,
would a true reflection be
of your justice, grace, and mercy
and the truth that makes us free.*

*You have called us to be faithful
in our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image,
focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
we move onward toward your goal.*

*God, your word is still creating,
calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
we'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we keep silent when we should speak.
We see iniquity and the injustices of the world,
yet are content not to call them out.
We withhold kind words, yet are quick to speak in judgment.
Forgive us, O God.
Direct the way we should go
and help us to use our voices
to spread your grace and truth.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness.

Friends, believe the Good News: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

We Gather around God's Word

Time with the Children

Hannah Altman

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

The Confession of 1967 (9.31)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to this call.

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music

O Love

- Hagenberg

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

What Is the World Like

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*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;*

*peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.*

*What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.*

*These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
this is a new world where God's will is done.*

Benediction

*Benediction Response

*Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.*

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