

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 29

the Fifth Sunday in Lent

Setting Your Space

Each week during Lent, the sanctuary is changing – even now, when the congregation is only seeing it from home, on a screen. Each week a new banner, created by a congregant, hangs in our space, reflecting that week's theme: Susan Chamber's purple one, *Holy Difference*; Joy Hallett's green one, *Holy Doubt*, Sarah Cassidy's orange one, *Holy Argument*; Wayne Beckwith's yellow one, *Holy Tension*. This week you'll see the blue one created by Anne Engen and Evonne Cramer, *Holy Trouble*.

Maybe you've got a worship set-up at home that you like and want to stick with throughout this season; maybe you want to change or add something new each week. If the latter, this week you could find something that resonates with our "trouble" theme: maybe a newspaper article you want to have in view as you worship, so you remember to pray for the trouble it describes; maybe you want to place a map or globe nearby, and think about troubled places in our world; maybe you want to set out a few candles, and light them for the troubled situations you're praying for; or maybe there's a "holy troublemaker" that inspires you – a saint, or prophet, or social justice worker, or friend, or relative – and placing a picture of them near your screen might enhance your time. Whatever you decide, we encourage you to create a space that will help you enter into awareness of the sacred within and all around you.

Lenten Song

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, kyrie eleison. Kyrie, kyrie eleison.

Gathering Song: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found.

Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown;

Jesus, you are all compassion; pure, unbounded love impart.

Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast;

Let us all in you inherit, let us find your promised rest.

Take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.

Finish then your new creation, pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Communal Prayer *by Bret Hesla*

Gracious Spirit, who loves us like a mother, whose realm is blooming among us now and within: We pray that your compassion guide us in every action. Give us what we need for each day, and help us to be satisfied with the miracle of that alone. Forgiver, whose embrace brings us to wholeness without our asking, may we reconcile ourselves to one another in humility. And may we cancel the crushing debts that imprison our neighbors so that communities of joy and health may flourish. May we neither profit from nor ignore evil, but ever work to thwart it with non-violence as we co-create the realm of peace in this world. Now and each day. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 8:28-34

When Jesus landed at the Gadarene boundary, he encountered two demon-possessed people coming out of the tombs. They were so violent that no one could pass by there.

“What do you want from us, Only Begotten of God?” they shouted. “Have you come to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance away a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons pleaded with Jesus and said, “If you expel us, send us into the herd of pigs.”

Jesus answered, “Out with you!”

With that they came forth and entered the pigs. The whole herd charged down the cliff into the lake and drowned in the water. The swineherds fled and, upon arriving in the town, told everything that had happened, including the story of the pair possessed by demons. Then the entire neighborhood came out to meet Jesus and implored him to leave the neighborhood.

Response Song: *Proof of Your Love*

If I sing, but don't have love
I waste my breath with ev'ry song,
I bring an empty voice, a hollow noise.

If I speak with a silver tongue
convince a crowd but don't have love,
I leave a bitter taste with every word I say.

So let my life be the proof, the proof of your love.
Let my love look like You and what You're made of -
how you lived, how you died - love is sacrifice.
So let my life be the proof, the proof of Your love.

If I give to a needy soul
but don't have love, then who is poor?
It seems all the poverty is found in me.

So let my life be the proof, the proof of your love.
Let my love look like You and what You're made of -
how you lived, how you died - love is sacrifice.
So let my life be the proof, the proof of Your love.

Whoa.... when it's all said and done,
Whoa.... when we sing our final song,
only love remains, only love remains.

So let my life be the proof, the proof of your love.
Let my love look like You and what You're made of -
how you lived, how you died - love is sacrifice.
So let my life be the proof, the proof of Your love.

Going Forth Song: *Put a Little Love in Your Heart*

Think of your fellow man, lend him a helping hand,
put a little love in your heart.

You see, it's getting late, oh, please don't hesitate,
put a little love in your heart.

And the world will be a better place,
and the world will be a better place,
for you and me. You just wait and see.

Another day goes by, and still the children cry,
put a little love in your heart.
If you want the world to know - we won't let hatred grow,
put a little love in your heart.

And the world will be a better place,
and the world will be a better place,
for you and me. You just wait and see. Wait and see...

Take a good look around, and if you're lookin' down,
put a little love in your heart.
I hope when you decide, kindness will be your guide.
Put a little love in your heart.

And the world will be a better place,
and the world will be a better place,
for you and me. You just wait and see.

Put a little love in your heart. (repeat)

Benediction

....and may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.