

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE **Bell Choir**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are yearning for the day...

People: The day of God's hope made real!

The day when nobody is hungry, nobody thirsty!

The day of God's love flowing freely!

Leader: Shade from Sun and shelter from the wind. The compassionate One
guides us to the springs of living water in the Word and in mighty deeds!

People: Let us worship our God and let love flow freely!

HYMN OF PRAISE # NCH 576 "For Healing of the Nations"

**1 For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with
one accord: for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords; to a life of
love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**

**2 Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your d release,
your world release that redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.**

**3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the
earth be banned; pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common
quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span**

4 You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our by our response and service earth its may find.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (sins)

Source of Love, we stream to You from East and West seeking what is right and holy. Free our hearts and minds to hear Your call to be compassionate toward the needs of our neighbor. Call to us in this One Great Hour of Sharing that we may gather in Spirit and in Truth to be transformed by these words we pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 49: 8-12 (The Message) Dave Parmenter

Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you, I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the the land, to apportion the desolate heritages;

Saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’
to those in darkness, ‘Show yourselves’ They shall will feed along the ways on all the bare heights shall be their pasture.

They will shall not hunger or thirst; neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will guide them

And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up.

Lo, these shall come from far away and lo these from the north and from the west. And these from the land of Syene.”

SERMON Rev. MaryAnn Purtil

HYMN - NCH # 588 “ *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*”

1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant cleansing, sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on as others cares we heed,
An ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb-line, straight, define our measure true
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Blessing The Prayer Shawls

Affirmation of Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER OF BLESSING (in unison)

**God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace,
we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that
we might see a world beyond ours.**

**We thank you for putting those in need on our hearts and in our
minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve.**

We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them.

May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence.

**And may your light shine in them and be a beacon of the hope that is
promised to all of us.**

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**May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of
us, through these shawls and through the lives that they will touch.
Shower us all with your loving grace, O God. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND DEDICATION

“Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty” is the hope of God. Let it become the hope of our church that with gifts drawn from our hearts, we let love flow freely. We dedicate our gifts that a new well may be given to a thirsty village, that seeds may take root for new crops to feed upon, that life will be made! Let our giving be overwhelming and generous, for it is in fact a prayer in action. Amen

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

HYMN NCH #573 “*Lead on Eternal Sovereign*”

1 Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way loud rings your cry for justice, your call for peace this day: Through prayerful preparation, your grace will make us strong, to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong

2 Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear, for in each human conflict your words of strength we hear; That when we serve with gladness you will not let us fall, our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.

3 Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sins fierce wall shall cease, and all your saints together will sing a hymn of peace; Then all your dominion will live hearts set free, to love and serve each other for all eternity.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE POSTLUDE

**The end of worship is the beginning of our service to God.
Go forth and serve God gladly.**