

*Our mission is to love God, to love our neighbor as ourselves,  
and to nurture and strengthen our Christian faith.*

**SUNDAY, April 25, 2021**

Presiding – Wayne Holst

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*We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith*

## **SEEDS OF MEDITATION**

The mark of a wild heart is living out the paradox of love in our lives. It's the ability to be tough and tender, excited and scared, brave and afraid—all in the same moment. It's showing up in our vulnerability and our courage, being both fierce and kind.

*Brené Brown*

If I get to be me, I belong. If I have to be like you, I fit in.

*Brené Brown*

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

## **LIGHTING THE CANDLES**

## **FOCUSING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP**

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

**Let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.**

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

**As we seek to follow Jesus,  
we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.**

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God,  
rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

**As we continue on our path to faithfulness,  
we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

~ written by Thom Shuman

## **OPENING PRAYER:**

O God,  
where hearts are fearful and confined,  
grant freedom and daring;  
where anxiety is infectious and widening,  
grant peace and reassurance;  
where impossibilities close every door and window,  
grant imagination and resistance;  
where distrust reshapes every understanding,  
grant healing and transformation;  
where spirits are daunted and dimmed,

grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

Amen

## **HYMN** Come Let Us Sing (VU #222)

1. Come, let us sing to the Lord our song: we have stood silently too long; surely the Lord deserves our praise, so joyfully thank God for our days.
2. O thirsty soul, come drink at the well; God's living waters will never fail. Surely the Lord will help you to stand, strengthened and comforted by God's hand.
3. You dwell among us and cause us to pray, and walk with each other following your way; our precious brothers and sisters will grow in the fulfilling love they know.
4. Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing to the desire of all living things. Come, all you creatures, high and low; let your praises endlessly flow.

## **READINGS**

### **Contemporary Words from Braving the Wilderness by Brené Brown**

*Spirituality is recognizing and celebrating that we are all inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion.*

*Stop walking through the world looking for confirmation that you don't belong. You will always find it because you've made that your mission. Stop scouring people's faces for evidence that you're not enough. You will always find it because you've made that your goal. True belonging and self-worth are not goods; we don't negotiate their value with the world. The truth about who we are lives in our hearts. Our call to courage is to protect our wild heart against constant evaluation, especially our own. No one belongs here more than you.*

### **An Ancient Word**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:1-15 - A Warning Not to Forget God in Prosperity**

8 This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. 2 Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. 3 He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.[a] 4 The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. 5 Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. 6 Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, 9 a land where you may eat bread without scarcity,

where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.  
10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

11 Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, 15 who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous[b] snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock,

### **Matthew 4:1-11 The Temptation of Jesus**

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**REFLECTION** Wayne Holst, Fran Burrell, Marilyn and Colin Outtrim, John Whiddon

**HYMN** Spirit of Gentleness (VU #375)

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.

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.

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.

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.

## **HONOURING OUR GIFTS**

**God of abundant life, we offer our gifts with love in response to your great love for us. Fill us with the spirit of the risen Christ and inspire us to live in your way. Amen**

**LITTLE GIFTS OF NEW LIFE – Carlie-Jean Godfrey**

## **DEDICATION PRAYER**

**Loving God,  
bless these gifts and all the ways in which we give.  
May each of our gifts be a part of co-creating  
and tending to the love, safety, belonging, and dignity  
You envision for the world. Amen.**

## **A TIME OF PRAYER**

### **THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**HYMN** Go Make a Difference (MV #209)

Refrain

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.  
Go make a difference in the world.  
Go make a difference. We can make a difference.  
Go make a difference in the world.

Verse 1

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see  
the love of God in you and me.  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a difference in the world.

Refrain

## Verse 2

We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,  
the face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.

Go make a difference in the world.

## Refrain

## Verse 3

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.

Go make a difference in the world.

And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.

Go make a difference in the world.

## Refrain

## **POSTLUDE**

A great big thank you to Wayne Holst, Fran Burrell, Colin and Marilyn Outtrim, John Whiddon, Carlie-Jean Godfrey, Nancy Erikson, our music team and tech team for leading worship this morning!