

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

### Greetings, Good News, Announcements

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 32 from *The Message*

**Opening Song** “Come Away from Rush and Hurry” #655

### Sharing Jesus’ Peace

#### Call to Worship

One: Do you feel it? God's kingdom is beneath our feet.

**Many: We live in the new creation shaped by God out of our brokenness.**

One: Do you know it? God's reconciling love in Christ has shattered our ways of viewing people.

**Many: No longer do we label our sisters and brothers, we welcome them with open arms.**

One: Do you believe it? God has made everything, including us, new,

**Many: and sends us forth to share this good news with everyone!**

#### Opening Prayer (read together)

**O God, with gladness and expectation, we gather in this space today. For you are the one who makes all things new. You are the one who satisfies our hunger and restores our soul.**

**In this holy space, help us, your daughters and sons, to know that you always love us.**

**Through our worship today, help us to know that if we stray away from you, you are always ready to receive us with open arms. Prepare our hearts as we worship you to welcome and embrace all of your children as you do us. With gladness and expectation we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

#### Call to Confession

##### Prayer of Confession (read together)

**On this very day, Waiting God, we admit all the lengths to which we go so we might avoid you. You offer us that kingdom of joy and wonder, yet we would hide in places where temptation waits. You invite us to feast on your grace and peace, but we stubbornly refuse, because you also welcome those we call 'outsiders.' We are quick to see all the mistakes that those around us make, but hope you will ignore our foolish choices.**

**Celebrating God, before we come to our senses, we find you running towards us, sweeping us up in your arms, tears of grace mingling with our cries of confession, a mighty river washing away our sinful ways to restore us to new life. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we find no limitations on your grace, no reservations about your love, but a feast that overflows with wonder, a place we can finally call home.**

#### Words of Assurance

One: God rolls away everything that stands in our way - our past, our sin, our pain, our hesitation, and reshapes us into new people living in the new creation. What wonderful grace. We are forgiven!

**Many: Broken, we are made whole; lost, we are brought home; empty, we are filled with songs of gladness. We rejoice and give thanks to God who has graced us with mercy. Amen.**

**Second Scripture Reading** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**Middle Song** “Our Father, We have Wandered” #371

**An Affirmation of Faith** (read together)

We believe in God, maker of all things, provider of all things, who loves all people.

We follow Jesus, in whom salvation has come to us: he sees us for who we are, heals the wounds of our hearts, and makes us new. In his death and resurrection we see the deepest truth of life.

We live by the power of the Holy Spirit, which empowers us for self-giving love.

We give thanks for the Church, the Body of Christ, and for the gift of forgiveness, the power of resurrection and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

#734

**Focus Scripture** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 from *The Message*

**Message** “Ambassadors for Jesus”

**Closing Song** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #358

The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession (adapted), and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Opening Prayer and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *Worship Ways- Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ*. The Affirmation of Faith is by Steve Garnaas-Holmes.