

ECHO PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship for the Third Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2020

CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH – ARE YOU A REGULAR?

Worship Team:

Preacher: Rev. Frank Wulf

Music Director: Ms. Mina Rhee

Liturgist: Ms. Ember Knight

Children's Sermon: Ms. Marcelina Souffle

+ **The worship leaders** line up for the procession at the back of the sanctuary approximately 5 minutes before worship begins.

PRELUDE:

Mina Rhee

+ The procession will begin as soon as the choir starts to sing the Introit.

+ **The Acolyte** lights the altar candles.

+ **Sulma** goes to the lectern and prepares to lead the Call to Worship immediately after the Introit.

+ **Pastor Frank and Lois** take their seats.

INTROIT

O Christ, the Healer

The Chancel Choir

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder*(Klug)

The United Methodist Hymnal 265 – verse 1

Verse 1: *O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In God We Live

Led by Ember Knight

From the United Church of Christ website

(https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf)

Ember: *Good morning church! Please stand now in body or spirit for
this morning's Call to Worship.*

Ember: *It is in God that we live and move and have our being.*

People: And so, in every moment of every day, we dance with God, and God dances with all creation.

Ember: We don't often notice that we're dancing.

People: But sometimes, every once in a while, God's music and movement break through... and we know!

Ember: When we gather together as a community of faith, we gather to help one another become open to the presence of God.

People: We gather to help one another be intentional in that relationship.

Ember: We gather to help one another.

People: And in helping one another, we worship God.

+ Ember introduces the Hymn of Praise.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Frank Wulf

From the United Church of Christ website
 (https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/called_to_be_the_church_five_sundays_of_lent.pdf)

Pastor: The prayer we are about to pray is a movement prayer. So, I invite you to stand in body or spirit as you choose, and to repeat my actions as you are able.

(The pastor places hands above his head, and the people do the same.)

People: Creator, touch our minds —
that we may worship with understanding.

(The pastor places his hands in front of his eyes, and the people do the same.)

Pastor: Christ, touch our eyes —
People: that we may recognize each other.

(The pastor places his hands in front of his mouth, and the people do the same.)

Pastor: Holy Spirit, touch our voices —
People: that our words would always praise you.

(The Pastor places his hands on his chest over his heart, and the people do the same.)

Pastor: Love Divine, touch our hearts —
People: that your compassion would overflow.

(The Pastor places one hand on top of the other, palms up, and the people do the same.)

Pastor: God of all, touch our hands —
People: that all we touch would be blessed, that all we touch would be transformed, that all we touch would be made new, by your love.

(The Pastor raises his hands in a gesture of praise, and the people do the same.)

Pastor: With all that we are —
People: we worship you. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

O Church of God, United

The Congregation

Words: Frederick B. Morley; Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkappelle
United Methodist Hymnal #547 – verses 1, 3, 4

Ember: Please remain standing in body or in spirit to sing our Hymn of Praise, “O Church of God United,” number 547 in The United Methodist Hymnal.

Verse 1: O church of God, united
to serve one common Lord,
proclaim to all one message,
with hearts in glad accord.

Christ ever goes before us;
we follow day by day
with strong and eager footsteps
along the upward way.

Verse 3: Though creeds and tongues may differ
they speak, O Christ, of thee;
and in thy loving spirit
we shall one people be.

Lord, may our faithful service
and singleness of aim
proclaim to all the power
of thy redeeming name.

Verse 4: May thy great prayer be answered
that we may all be one,
close bound, by love united,
in thee, God's blessed Son.

To bring a single witness,
to make the pathway bright,
that souls which grope in darkness
may find the one true light.

+ Pastor Frank and Lois go to the center front of the Sanctuary during the singing
of the final verse of the hymn.

+ Lois invites the congregation to be seated as soon as the hymn is ended and then welcomes
the community to worship.

WELCOME

Lay Leader Lois Price

Lois: *Welcome to Echo Park United Methodist Church on this third
Sunday in Lent.*

We want to give a special welcome to all of who are worshiping with us for the first time or who have returned to be with us again after a long time away.

As a Reconciling Congregation, Echo Park United Methodist Church is a church of open hearts, open minds, and open doors. All are welcome here just as they are without regard to race, culture, language, immigration status, faith tradition, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We thank all who are helping out with today's service of worship, especially Ember Knight, Marcelina Souffle, Mina Rhee, our Chancel Choir, Jim Ring, Retha Matson, Danny Bernabe, and our morning's acolyte.

Because of COVID-19, there will be no fellowship time following today's worship.

Pastor: As we continue our announcements, I invite us to recall last week's Bible memory verse, John 3:16. I hope that you found it helpful in your spiritual walk. Let's recite it together:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

This coming week's verse is John 4:23. Let's read it aloud:

The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.

I encourage you to post your memory verse card in a place where you will see it and be able to read it regularly. It's my prayer that this verse will help to sustain you as you seek to follow God during the week ahead.

The announcements are scrolling across the screen right now. We will scroll them again at the end of our time of worship. They are also printed in your worship bulletins. I encourage you to take your bulletins home with you so that you will be able to keep up-to-date with what is happening over the next few weeks at Echo Park United Methodist Church. I especially encourage you to pay attention to the announcements about:

- **The United Methodist Women** will not meet today because of COVID-19.
- There will be NO **Laundry Love** this coming Tuesday because of the COVID 19 outbreak.
- **Our Lenten Bible Study** will continue this coming Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to join either in person or online. The link to join online is available on the screen, in your bulletins, and on the church website. The title for this year's study is "Called to Be the Church." The topic for this first week is "Are You a Regular" based on Psalm 95:1-7 You will be able to find materials and information about preparing for the study on the church website.

Use this link to join the study online:

<https://zoom.us/j/7184544317>

- Next Sunday, March 22, is **UMCOR Sunday**, one of the six special Sundays of The United Methodist Church. On that date, we will take a special offering to support UMCOR and its work. You may contribute by sending a check to the church office or donating online at:
<https://echoparkumc.wordpress.com/donate-here/>.
- Our **Spring Stewardship Sunday** which was scheduled to be held on March 29 has been postponed. Watch for more information in your mail or in your email.
- **Holy Week and Easter** are coming soon. Because of COVID-19 all worship services through Good Friday, April 10, are being cancelled. We hope to gather for a festive celebration on Easter Sunday, April 12.
- You can find information about our **Homeless Ministry** and

other important matters in the life of the Church in your Worship Bulletins.

- Are there any other announcements that need to be made?

+ **Frank** invites the congregation to sing the Children's Song as **Marcelina Souffle** and **the children** come forward.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's Song

Jesus Loves the Little Children

The Congregation

Words & Music: George F. Root

**Jesus loves the little children,
all the children of the world.
Every color, every race,
all are covered by God's grace.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

Children's Message

Marcelina Souffle

+ **Marcie and the children** return to their seats as **Ember** leads the congregation in the Confession and Pardon.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Invitation to Confession

Led by Ember Knight

Ember: *Trusting in the grace of God in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins, trusting that in God's grace we find healing and hope. Let us begin by praying in silence.*

Personal Prayers of Confession

The congregation prays silently for 15-20 seconds, **Ember** then leads the congregation in the Community Prayer of Confession.

Community Prayer of Confession

Led by Ember Knight

By Nancy C. Townley on the Ministry Matters website

(<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4556/worship-connection-march-15-2020>)

Ember: Now, let us join together in confessing our sins before our merciful God and asking for God's pardon on this Lenten journey.

People: God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt.

Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love. Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us.

We have behaved in very unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives.

Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Led by Ember Knight

Ember: The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to all who come seeking God's loving and healing presence. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD! AMEN.

<p>+Ember invites members of the congregation to rise as they are able and to pass the Peace of Christ to one another.</p>
--

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ember: *In these days of COVID-19, I invite us to greet each other wholeheartedly, but to do so without handshakes or hugs or other forms of physical contact. Instead, let us look around the Sanctuary, catch each other's gaze, and smile warmly as we offer these words of greeting to one another: "You are blessed by God, and you are a blessing from God."*

People: **You are blessed by God, and you are a blessing from God.**

+ **The people** offer each other signs of peace.
+ At the appropriate time, **Ember** invites people to remain standing in body or spirit, and to continue worship by singing the Hymn of Preparation.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

All Are Welcome

The Congregation

Words & Music: Marty Haugen

Verses 1, 2, 4, 5

Ember: *Please remain standing in body or in spirit to sing our Hymn of Praise, "All Are Welcome," found on page 4 of your worship bulletins.*

Verse 1: **Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Verse 2: **Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;**

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 4: Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 5: Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

+ Frank invites people to share their joys and concerns aloud so that the congregation can be in prayer with them.
--

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Wulf

+ Frank offers the Prayer of the Community after the people have finished sharing their joys and concerns.

PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

Prayed by Pastor Wulf

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT

Led by Ember Knight

People: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

O Christ, the Healer

The Chancel Choir

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder*(Klug)
The United Methodist Hymnal 265 – verse 2

*Verse 2: From every ailment flesh endure
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.*

+ **Ember** goes to the lectern during the singing of the Prayer Response. **Ember** begins reading the assigned passage of scripture as soon as the choir has finished singing the Prayer Response.

SCRIPTURE READING

God Gives Water to the People

Ember Knight

Exodus 17:1-7 (New Revised Standard Version, alt.)

Ember: Listen now for the Word of God in the words of Exodus 17.

¹*From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as God commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.*

²*The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test God?”*

³*But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?”*

⁴So Moses cried out to GOD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵GOD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶“I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested GOD, saying, “Is GOD among us or not?”

Ember: *This is the Word of God for the people of God.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

The Bellman’s Carol

The Chancel Choir

Words: Anonymous; Music: Traditional (arr. By Scott S. Withrow)

GOSPEL READING

The Samaritan Woman

Rev. Frank Wulf

John 4:5-42 (New Revised Standard Version, alt.)

Pastor: *Please stand in body or spirit as you prefer, and listen for the Word of God as we continue reading the words of John 4.*

⁵So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”

²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Creator neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Creator in spirit and truth, for the Creator seeks such as these to worship.

²⁴“God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.”

²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”

²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete that one’s work.

³⁵“Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

³⁷“For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

⁴¹And many more believed because of his word.⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Pastor: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Are You a Regular?

Pastor Wulf

+ Following the sermon, Ember invites the ushers to come forward to receive the morning’s offerings.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Ember Knight

Ember: We are disciples of Christ, blessed by his teaching and blessed by his love. So, let us share who we are and what we have, so that, in sharing, we might be part of blessing God's world.

OFFERTORY

Mina Rhee

+As soon as the ushers have finished receiving the offering, **Ember** goes to the lectern and invites the congregation to stand and sing the Doxology.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Mina Rhee

Words: Thomas Ken; Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge
United Methodist Hymnal 94

Ember: Please stand in body or in spirit to sing our Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," number 94 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

**Verse: Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts.
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts.
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

+**The Ushers** bring the offering to the front of the Sanctuary during the singing of the Doxology. **Frank** and **Ember** receive the offering plates from the Ushers and then turn and face the altar.
+ **Frank** and **Ember** raise the offering plates. **Ember** leads the congregation in praying the Prayer of Dedication.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Ember: Let us pray.

People: The bills and the coins and the numbers in the bank are symbols of the work of our hands, loving God. We offer them to you, that they might be signs and symbols of our worship as they go out into the world. May they be used in ways that bring healing and wholeness to all creation. Amen.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION**

Song of Hope

The Congregation

Words: Alvin Schutmaat; Music: Argentine Folk Melody
(The Faith We Sing # 2186; English verse + refrain – sing twice)

Ember: *Please stand in body or spirit to sing our Hymn of Dedication, “Song of Hope” found on pages 8 of your worship bulletins.*

Verse: May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that’s new,
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

Verse: May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain: Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that’s new,
faithful when we hear Christ’s call.

<p>+ The Acolyte moves to the middle of the Chancel <u>immediately after</u> extinguishing the candles. + Frank and Ember move to the middle of the Chancel and stand behind the Acolyte. + Frank delivers the Benediction <u>as soon as</u> the singing concludes.</p>
--

BLESSED TO LOVE AND SERVE

Pastor Wulf

Pastor: God of all, touch our hands —

People: that all we touch would be blessed, that all we touch would be transformed, that all we touch would be made new by your love.

Pastor: As we go into your world —

People: we worship you! Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE O Christ, the Healer

The Chancel Choir

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: *Geistliche Lieder*(Klug)

The United Methodist Hymnal 265 – verse 5

*Verse 5: Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.*

POSTLUDE

Mina Rhee