

**WE GATHER**  
**“WHAT IS HOLINESS?”**

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT: MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Introduction**

**Introit:**

**Territorial Acknowledgment**

**Extinguishing the Lenten Candles: “that which troubles us most about Christ, is what makes Christ uniquely holy.”**

**WE ENTER INTO GOD’S PRESENCE**

**\*Call to Worship** (*Roni Beharry*)

We create space away from the busyness of the day.  
It is God who helps us to let go of the daily demands  
that compete for our time and attention.  
Symbols such as the lighting of a candle  
or the gentle ringing of a tiny bell  
remind us that we are entering a holy space.  
We enter into God’s Holy presence.  
Let us prepare our hearts for prayer.

**Opening Prayer:** (*Roni Beharry*)

Holy One reveal your holiness to us.  
Your wisdom is clothed in humility, shrouded in rejection  
and is disguised in the shame of this world. Your Spirit reminds us  
that you have overcome this world’s suffering. The resurrection bears  
witness to this truth. Reveal yourself to us more fully through your  
humble servant Jesus. Deepen our understanding of your holiness  
through our study of the scriptures. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** “Take time to be holy” VU#672

**Prayer of Confession:** (*Elizabeth Henderson*)

When we set up barriers that prevent others  
from knowing the truth of your love,  
forgive us and break down those walls.  
When we set up barriers in our own minds and lives  
that keep us from knowing the truth of your love,  
break down our walls with your grace.  
When we are confused by the world’s wisdom,

break through our muddled minds  
and shine the clarity of your teachings.  
Draw us ever closer to you, to one another,  
and to the beauty of your holiness.

**Amen.**

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**Words of Assurance:** (*Elizabeth Henderson*)

Your love transforms barriers that are meant to divide and marginalize  
into channels for grace and mercy. Your love makes it possible for us  
to enter more fully into your Holy presence. Glory to God! Amen.

**THE WORD**

One: Your Word is a lamp to our feet;

***All: And a light on our path.***

***Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love. Amen.***

**The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25**

**Christ the Power and Wisdom of God**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it  
is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the  
debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the  
world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God  
through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our  
proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and  
Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-  
block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the  
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom  
of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s  
weakness is stronger than human strength.

**One:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying through the early church.

***All: Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.***

## **Gospel Reading: John 2: 13-22**

### **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple Jesus found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. Jesus also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' Jesus' disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Judeans then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Judeans then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**One:** This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*ALL: Glory to you O Christ.*

### **Prayer of Invocation:**

**Reflection:** "What is Holiness?"

**Hymn of Ascription:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU#374  
*(piano solo)*

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

### **Announcements:**

### **Invitation to offer of ourselves:**

### **Offertory Blessing:**

**May our gifts be blessed by your grace,  
that your beloved beyond this place may know the truth of your  
wisdom and your love. Your mercy reveals your holiness. Amen.**

**The Memory Candle:** *(Elizabeth Henderson)*

### **Holy Communion**

(I invite you to secure a piece of bread, rice cracker etc.  
and a glass of juice or water).

The Spirit of God be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts;

**We lift them to God.**

Give thanks to our God!

**All our thanks, all our praise.**

Before all that is, You were God.

Outside all we know, You are God.

After all is finished, You will be God.

Your smile on Sarah and Abraham,

Your hand with Moses and Miriam,

Your words through Deborah and Isaiah,

You lived as Jesus among us,

Healing, teaching, dying, rising,

Inviting us all to your feast.

On the night when he was betrayed,

Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people

for the forgiveness of sin,

Do this in remembrance of me.

Holy God we remember your Son,

His life with the humble,

His death among the wretched,

His resurrection for us all:

Your wisdom our guide,

Your justice our strength,

Your grace our path to rebirth.

Holy Spirit,

Enliven this bread,

Awaken this body,

Pour us out for each other.

Transfigure our minds,  
Ignite your church,  
Nourish the life of the earth.  
Make us, while many, united,  
Make us, though broken, whole,  
Make us despite death, alive.  
Come and visit us Holy Spirit,  
Come and pray in us Holy Spirit.  
Renew us with you grace, as we feed on the bread of life.  
“Jesus Christ the bread of life” (we eat)  
Jesus Christ, the cup of the new covenant poured out for us.  
“The Cup of Blessing Poured out for us.” (we drink)  
Fed at table, we return to the places we are called,  
sharing in your ministry of peacebuilding.  
O God, form us into your holy people.  
In Jesus’ name we pray,  
**Amen.**

**SENT TO SHOW CHRIST’S LOVE**

**Hymn:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” VU#264

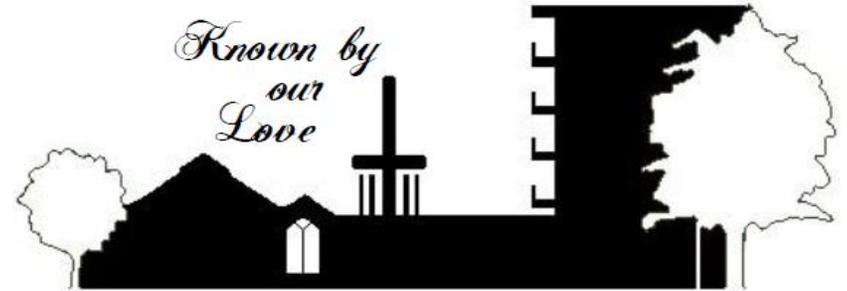
**Benediction:**

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

**Go now in peace:**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**  
**God will go with you each hour of every day.**  
**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**  
**Know God will guide you in all you do.**  
**Go now in love, and show you believe.**  
**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**  
**God will be there watching from above.**  
**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Postlude**



*Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring,  
welcoming faith community, nurturing  
spiritual life and sharing God's love  
and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.*

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