

Order of Worship-Preparing a Table

Let us be as open vessels that God's spirit may enter.

The Community Gathers: Experience God's presence in the assembly. Please greet one another with joy and welcome new friends into our community of love.

You are welcome here...come and worship!

9:55 Preparation for worship:

Focus: "The Prayer of Echoing" Cherished Word of Life, stand on the mountainside of my heart. Speak your words of love to me. As your message awakens and reverberates within my being, transform me into an ever more caring person. Awaken an awareness of your guiding presence so I express your love like a canyon's echo in every part of my life. Joyce Rupp

Opening:

Rev. Paula Norbert

Gathering Music: Come and Find, Verse 1

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded lives we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be...

Welcome:

Responsive Call to Worship:

Let us pray a "prayer for clearing out..."

L: Table-Setting God, we come today hungry for company.

Let us *make* room for You.

All: Draw us in to this time of worship to sit down at the place you have prepared for us.

L: Let us *find* room for You.

All: Help us clear out the calendar of our lives to make room for others in it.

L: Let us *be* room for You.

All: In the name of Jesus, who invites us to wholeness. Amen

Opening Hymn: Spirit of Gentleness, Verses 1,3, 4

#291

Invocation:

Lord's Prayer:

Awakening: *Seven Shades of Sunday (by Tommy Makem)*

-Jen Comeau

Message for the children and the child in each of us:

On Saint Patrick and his Life

Scripture: Psalm 23, "Return to Yourself" by John O'Donohue

-Kathleen Koles

After the reading, you may respond with "Thanks Be to God" if you choose.

Sermon: "The Gift of Connection"

Rev. Paula Norbert

Sermon Response: *Meditative~ Hear Oh Lord (by Ray Repp)* -Jen Comeau

Musical call to Prayer: (two times) Hush now in quiet peace, be still your mind at ease. The Spirit brings release, so wait upon the Lord.

Prayers of the People:

Silent Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Reflection in Prayer Chair

Music: Come and Find, Verse 2

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

The God Box and The Serenity Prayer:

Offertory Invitation: *In The Stillness (by Karen Drucker)*

-The Union Church Choir

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Closing Hymn: Be Thou My Vision, Verses 1, 2, 4 #450

Children's Sharing Time:

Benediction: A Blessing for the Unhurried Life
May the you find green pastures
and still waters along your way.
May you set tables and
talk to loved ones about the deepest things you know.
May your life be emptied of meaningless rambling
and be filled with meaningful encounters.
And may you be reacquainted each day
with an unhurried God who is calling you
to dive deeply into love. **Amen**

Recessional: Come and Find, Verse 3

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

Thank you to our Guest Musician's today: Jen Comeau, Ada Goff,
Choir Director Patricia Mulholland & The Union Church Choir
and to our Children's Minister, Gail Quinney.

Worship Materials by Worship Design Studios, Marcia McPhee.
Words for the theme song, "Come and Find the Quiet Center" by
Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: Beach Spring.

Union Church

Biddeford Pool

...a place of peace and Presence by the sea



Second Sunday in Lent
Reconnecting With An Unhurried God
You are welcome here
March 17th, 2019 – 10:00 A.M.