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March 6, 2016

Communion

4th Sunday in Lent

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.

All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Gathering Song – “*Softly and Tenderly*”

Call to Worship

One: Come in and be surprised. God loves you.

All: Even if we'd gone off to do our own thing.

One: God loves you.

All: But our world insists on punishment and justice.

One: This is where we celebrate that this is God's world and it is always a place of love.

* Hymn – “*Fill My Cup, Lord*”

Prayer of Approach

Creator, we come to worship you but we admit that this faith of ours is complicated and confusing. The world around us is clear about right and wrong... about reward and punishment. It all seems so neat and clear. Yet we know we are not perfect. We have times when we are lost. At other moments we are caught up in our own needs and wants. We presume you should resent us but against all the odds, you insist that you love us. You promise us forgiveness no matter what. You lay before us grace. It doesn't add up. We worship you for showing us in Jesus how absurdly fantastic your love is for us. When so much of life is uncertain, your love is an anchor. Be with us now, we ask in Jesus' name.

AMEN

The Word

📖 Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

**I'm Hungry, Lord; I'm Hungry, Lord;
My soul cries out for Thee,
The Living Bread, the Water of Life,
The One who quickens me.**

Anthem – “Come Home”

Meditation – “Divine mathematics – it never adds up.”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Hungerin' in My Soul”

The Response

* Offering / Response (VU #545)

**You nourish us with food, O God,
For body and for soul;
Our love and service is our thanks,
For life that's free and whole,
For life that's free and whole**

Announcements

* Pre-Communion Hymn VU #472 – “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”

Presentation of Symbol

* Communion Liturgy

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

* Hymn MV #194 – “Bread of Life, Feed My Soul”

Post-Communion Prayer

We thank you, Wise One, that you know what we yearn for. You give us symbols and rituals that have sustained believers from age to age. We can count on you to be there with just the right insight to guide us. For this bread and cup that reminds us of your love, we thank you for the food of the Spirit that satisfies all our hungering and thirsting. AMEN

* Hymn VU #481 – “*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*”

* Benediction / Response

**The Lord lift you up, the Lord take your hand,
The Lord lead you forth, and cause you to stand,
Secure in God's word, seeking God's face,
Abounding in love, abiding in grace.**