

#### Pastoral Welcome and Announcements

# Thoughts for the Day:

- Faith is the daring of the soul to go farther than it can see. -William Newton Clarke
- Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity and the exaltation of humanity.

-Phillips Brooks

# Call to Worship:

One: Amazing grace:

All: Lifting us from despair,

One: Comforting us in sorrow,

All: Surprising us in our doubt.

One: Amazing grace:

All: Sounding trumpets in the dark,

One: Sending a light for our path,

All: Calling our name in a crowd.

One: Amazing grace:

All: Holding us when fear hovers close,

One: Opening windows when doors are shut,

All: A gift that comes when we don't deserve it.

Song: In God's Eyes (music at end of bulletin)

### Our Confession:

Gracious God, overwhelming and surprising in mercy, we are overly concerned with fairness, especially when our interests are in the equation. We watch to see if others are better liked, playing by the rules, getting the proper consequences. We often approach faith as a series of achievements and results.

O God of grace, lessen our anxious striving, our critical gaze. Surprise us again with your free gifts of love and forgiveness. So fill us with your mercy that we can rejoice when you work in those whom we consider undeserving. Your love shows no bounds, and your grace is amazing - and includes even us. We thank you. Amen.

Song: Amazing Grace, verses 1-3 (music at end of bulletin)

The Lesson: Matthew 15:10-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, 'Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.' Then the disciples approached and said to him, 'Do you know that the Pharisees took offence when they heard what you said?' He answered, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.' But Peter said to him, 'Explain this parable to us.' Then he said, 'Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.'

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Message: "Everyone is On the Team"

Message Response: Truth Be Told

The Prayers

# The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### The Sending Out:

Leader: Pardoned by God's abounding grace, empowered by God's constant love and protected by God's peace, let us go forth to serve God and others, always humbly aware of our own shortcomings, but always encouraged by the faithful and loving presence of God in Christ Jesus, to whom be glory and power, now and forever.

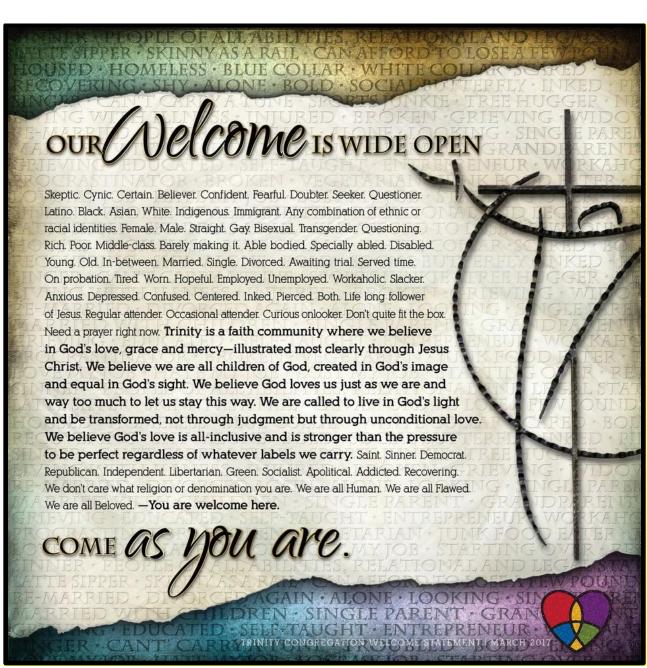
Amen.

The Sending Song: Nobody

The Dismissal

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



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