



16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PREPARATION PRAYER:

Great God of love, you are the alpha and omega. By the love of Jesus you made the cross – an instrument of shameful, painful death – to be for us the means of life. Help us to find such peace and security in Jesus' cross that we trust your love at all times. Help us to find in you the hope and strength we need to live faithfully and fully as your children through all our beginnings and endings. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ "Starting over begins when I develop a reawakened appreciation for what I already have, a renewed recognition of what I've recklessly forsaken, a rehabilitated understanding that I foolishly do both of those things, and a revitalized commitment to live the rest of my life never doing either of them again."
- Craig D. Lounsborough
- ❖ "Easter is joy, hope, love, and renewal. Easter is proof that we can begin again."
- Richelle E. Goodrich

PRAISE SONG: *Light the Fire (music at end of bulletin)*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

People: Renew our worn-out hopes. Restore our forgotten dreams.

Leader: Come, Prince of Peace, come.

People: Refashion our commitment to a world where justice and peace embrace.

Leader: Come, Wonderful Counselor, come.

People: Rekindle our joy for living and refuel our passion for truth.

Leader: Come, Giver of Life, come.

People: Refresh our yearning for you. Replant us in your grace.

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:

God of eternal hope, you place a light into every darkness and a star in every sky, and yet we seem to prefer to walk in the darkness of despair and worry. We cover over the light of possibility with a flurry of worry. We walk bent over with care and concern and miss the reach of the stars. We fear the worst and distrust the best. We forge ahead on our own, not noticing your outstretched hand. We forget that there is never a moment that you are not with us. We forget that to every situation your love and power brings a candle of hope, the light of peace and the radiance of joy.

Shine your light on our path and walk with us through all our dark valleys. Shine in the dark caverns of our hearts. Make us radiant with your love that others may see our good works and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Our sins are forgiven and we have a new start. Today we are called to live as God's people in the world. Let us answer the call in joy.

All: Amen.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Changed for Good (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-6

It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

THE GOSPEL:

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

MESSAGE: "Could we start again, please?" - Pastor Cristy Schoob

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *Ubuntu (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and 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, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: The One who made you has made you new. Now you are sent out to offer the world the opportunity be made alive through the power of God's Spirit who dwells in you. Go out with, and to BE, the blessing of God Almighty.

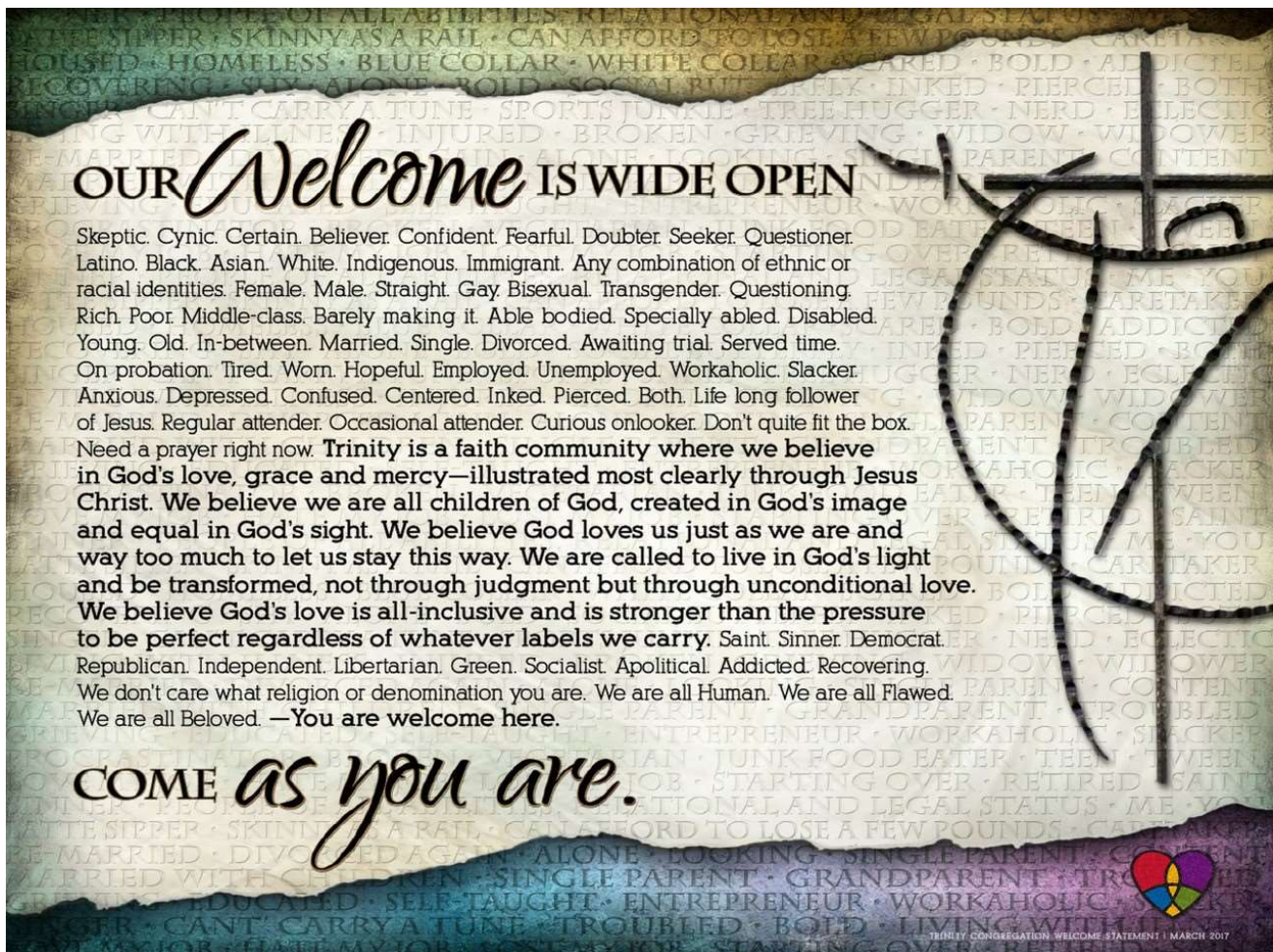
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *All The People Said Amen* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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Light the Fire

I stand to praise You but I fall on my knees. My
spi - rit is hun - gry but my flesh is so weak.
Chorus
Light the fire in my soul fan the flame make me
whole Lord, You know where I've been so light the fire
in my heart a - gain.
I feel Your arms a - round me as the
pow'r of Your heal - ing be - gins You breathe new life right
through me like a might - y rush - ing wind. *Repeat chorus 3X*

Changed for Good



1.No more watch - ing from the top of a tree;
2.Light the lamps and let the par - ty be - gin;
3&4.Time to break the chains that bound me so long.



no more watch - ing from a dis - tance to see;
o - pen doors and let the peo - ple come in.
There's no way that I can right all my wrongs.



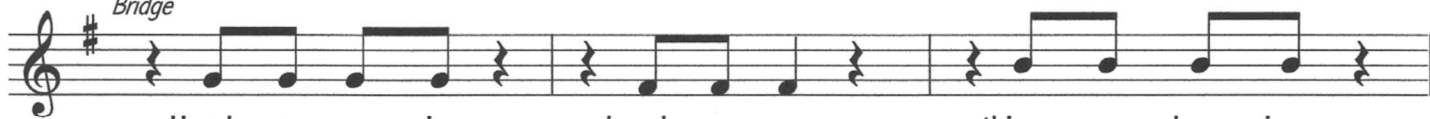
love is here and love is call - ing to me;
I am miles a - way from where I have been.
Here I start and if it takes my life long,



I'm be - ing changed for good.

*2nd and 3rd time to Bridge
Last time to Coda*

Bridge



Here's my pro - mise, here's my vow, things are chang - ing,



start - ing now; I was lost, now I'm found,



go and tell ev - ery - bo - dy in town. *To Verse 3 and 4*

Coda



I'm be - ing changed for good; mak - ing a change for good.

Ubuntu
(pronounced "oom-BOON-too")

Chorus

U - bun- tul U - bun- tul
 shar- ing our vi - sions and dreams. U - bun- tul where
 jus- tice flows like a life giv - ing stream. The
 peo- ple to - geth- er join - ing our hearts and our
 hands to wel - come the strang - er and cher - ish the friend and to
 work for the peace of the land and so we do life!

Verses (echo song leader)

1. ... Sisters and brothers ... made for communion ... bound to each other ... one holy union
 ... Drawn by a vision ... drawn by desire ... drawn to the circle ... round God's holy fire,
2. ... Called now we follow ... Jesus our brother ... Who gathers his children ... just like a mother
 ... Tenderly holding ... this new creation ... Making and molding ... a new holy nation,
3. ... This is our vision ... life's in the sharing ... Holding back nothing ... dreaming and daring,
 ... To live this communion ... that breaks us and binds us
 ... Holds us and heals us ... frees us and finds us

Bridge

1. Made by God's po - wer to live as God's own;
 2. Marked by the wa - ter and giv - en our name,
 3. God, give us cour - age to do what we say,
 made to be seen and be heard and to be known!
 moved by give God's Spir - it, be re - vived by hol - y flames!
 Christ, give us strength for the liv - ing of these days.

All the People Said Amen

Verse 1

You are not a - lone, if you are lone - ly. When you feel a - fraid,
You're not the on - ly. We are all the same in need of mer - cy, to be for - giv - en and be
free. It's all you got to lean on, but, thank God it's all you need.____

Chorus

And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa,____ and all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Give
thanks to the Lord, for His love ne - ver ends. And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

2nd time to Bridge *Last time - repeat tag.*

Verse 2

If you're rich or poor; well, it don't mat - ter. Weak or strong, love is what we're af - ter.
We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. God knows we stum - ble and fall,
and He so loved the world He sent His Son to save us all. *Repeat chorus*

Bridge

And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Bless - ed are the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless - ed are
the per - se - cut - ed and the pure in heart. Bless - ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an
- oth - er start, for theirs is the King - dom, the King - dom of God. *Repeat chorus 2X*