



WORSHIP:
Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Progressive In Approach; Christlike In Action!

March 13, 2022

Spring Forth!

Pastor **Dawn Hutchings**, Musician: **Marney Curran**
Worship Team: Marney Curran, Eric Schultz,
Andrew Slonetsky, Sharon Willan, Jane Winstanley

Welcome:

Prelude: **I Call on Thee O Lord**
by Johann Sebastian Bach

Music printed under
LiscenSing #1975

Invocation:

The DIVINE MYSTERY, which is our LOVER,
the power of the BELOVED which rises in every act of LOVE,
and the BREATH OF LOVE which breathes
in, with, through, and beyond the Cosmos
is with you, for you are the incarnation of LOVE.
Thanks be to ALL that IS HOLY!

Song: **Doxology for Humanity**
Words: Kurt Struckmeyer; Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise life that makes us change and grow
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here

Praise ears that hear the children's cries
Praise truth that drives out cruel lies
Praise hearts that value human worth
Praise lives that build a better earth

Praise faith that keeps us ever strong
Praise hope that triumphs over wrong
Praise lips that challenge those in power
Praise those who struggle every hour

Prayer

Let us pray:

Made by DIVINITY of DIVINITY we are made by LOVE to be LOVE.

Let us become all that we can be.

Let us worship GOD by LOVing.

Let us unbind ourselves from our fears.

Let us reach beyond our comfort zones.

Let us open our arms wide to enfold into the LOVE in which we live and move and have our being all those who need the safety of LOVE's embrace.

Let us feast on wisdom.

Let our worship ground us.

Let our prayers transform us.

Let our contemplations challenge us.

Let us be creative in our LOVing so that all may know peace.

We pray in the name of the LOVE which allures us into ONEness, the ONE which is our LOVER, BELOVED and BREATH of LOVE.

Amen.

Contemplation:

Gathering Her Brood by Phuc Luu

Video produced by Work of the People

In a land where prophets are killed
Where God is crucified
Over and over again
Where people abandon each other
For the sake of ideas
Making enemies of sisters and brothers
Fighting wars because of fear
Because of figments of our imagination
The war of terror within us
Tearing at the bonds that join us

God is still with us
among us
Emanuel
Who is with the demonized and disenfranchised
The outcasts and other
To bring them together
As a mother hen
Desiring to gather her brood
To keep them safe from foxes
Who seek to kill, steal, and destroy
Holding them close
Into her chest
If we chose to listen to her heart
And be comforted by the warmth of her wings
If we choose the care
That promises to never leave us
Never to abandon us to ourselves
God abiding in love and loyalty
God ever present

Song:

Thy Holy Wings



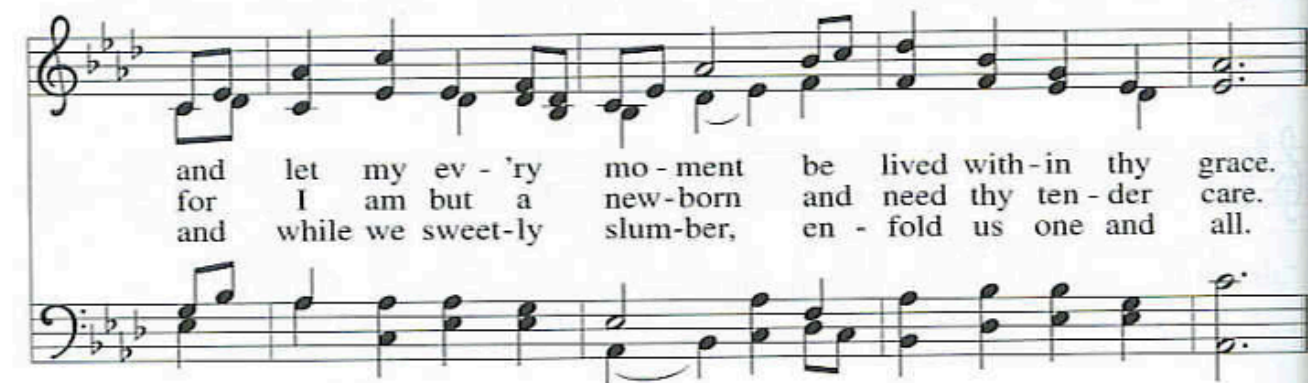
1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Reflection based on these texts:

Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18

After these events, the word of YAHWEH came to Abram in a vision:

“Fear not, Abram! I AM your shield; I will make your reward very great.”

Abram said, “But my Sovereign, My God, what good are these blessings to me, so long as Sarai and I will die in disgrace?

My only heir is a foreigner who lives in my household, Eliezer of Damascus.

Since you have given me no offspring,” Abram continued, “An attendant in my house will be my heir.”

Then the word of YAHWEH came to Abram and said, “This person will not be your heir. Your heir will be of your own flesh and blood.”

Then God took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can! As many as that, you will have for descendants.”

Abram believed YAHWEH and God accounted it to Abram as righteousness.

YAHWEH the said to Abram, “I AM YAHWEH who brought you from UR of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.”

Abram asked, “Sovereign God, how am I to know that I will possess it?”

God answered Abram, Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

Abram brought all of these, cut them in half, and place each half opposite the other—except the birds, which he did not cut up.

Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell over Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking brazier and a flaming torch appeared, which passed between the halves of the sacrifices.

On that day YAHWEH made this covenant with Abram: “To your descendants I give this land, from the River of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates: the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadomonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, Rephaim, the Aorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

Luke 13: 31-35

Just then, some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, “You need to get out of town, and fast. Herod is trying to kill you.”

Jesus replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’”

Even with all that, I’ll need to continue on my journey today, tomorrow and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you!

How often have I wanted to gather your children together as a mother hen collects her babies under her wings—yet you refuse me!

So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!’”

Reflection: **As war rages, the racism we do not want to see in
Ourselves continues to flow out of our tribalism.**

Song:

When Twilight Comes

WORDS: MUSIC

**When twilight comes and the sun sets,
mother hen prepares for night's rest.
As her brood shelters under her wings,
she gives the love of God to her nest.
Oh! what joy to feel her warm heart-beat
and be near her all night long;
so the young can find repose,
then renew tomorrow's song.**

**One day the Rabbi Lord Jesus,
called the twelve to share his last meal.
As the hen tends her young,
so for them he spent himself
to seek and to heal.
Oh! what joy to be with Christ Jesus,
hear his voice, oh! sheer delight,
and receive his servant care:
all before the coming night.**

**So gather round once again, friends,
touched by fading flow of sun's gold,
and recount all our frail human hopes:
the dreams of young and stories of old.
Oh! what joy to pray close together,
Kneeling as one family
By a mother's love embraced
In the blessed UNITY.**

A Benediction from the Jewish Prayer Book:

**Days pass, and the years vanish, and we walk
sightless among miracles.
Fill our eyes with seeing and our minds with
knowing.
Let there be moments when your PRESENCE, like
lightning, illumines the darkness in which we walk.
Help us to see, wherever we gaze, that the bush
burns, unconsumed.
And we, clay touched by God, will reach out for
holiness and exclaim in wonder,
"How filled with awe is this place...."**

Prayers of the People

Andrew Slonetsky

In my lifetime we have gone from marveling at the stars we could see from Earth to launching telescopes that show us a universe of mind-boggling numbers of galaxies. The forces at play create beauty and inter-connectedness beyond our imagining.

As we discover new possibilities for our creative impulses, our progress has been truly impressive. Yet,.... We are still able to revert to tribalism, no matter what the cost. I can only take solace in the fact that the story of our magnificent universe includes us. The story is bigger than we can imagine and the love that is the source of all is able to embrace even we humans as we fail. When we are able to see ourselves as a part of this profound story, we are able to do that which might seem hopeless, confident that everything matters and contributes to this evolving story of love expressed. And so, when we hear what our hearts declare and embrace it, we are more able to become our best selves and communities. Amen

Sharon Willan

HOLY ONE, words fail me. I am filled with questions and lament.

Is there no end to the atrocities in this war?

How many more deaths until enough is enough?

How long do people have to wait for concrete assistance?

Why does this have to be so complicated?

We know from past experience that violence breeds and escalates more violence.

Surely we can see that the seeds of hatred are being sown between two nations where kinship once existed.

BREATH of LIFE. We breathe you in with every breath you fill us with yourself.

Even though today we may feel nothingness, you are closer than our breath.

It is difficult to live in this nothingness where we see on our television screens every agonizing pain our sisters and brothers experience.

May we bear witness to this tragedy.

HOLY CREATIVE LIFE, what are we human beings becoming?

On the one hand we see this unwarranted brutal attack on innocent women, children and men. We see the Sacred Earth torn by bombs and wildlife thrown into chaos.

There are no limits to this attack as a maternity hospital is shelled and women carrying new life within their bodies are injured or killed.

We see children being lifted from the rubble?

Have we not made progress since the last two world wars?

What, who are we human beings?

We look at the much too young Russian men and women conscripted into this war and know that their very minds and souls are being devastated by the cruelty of their actions.

They will live with these memories for the rest of their lives.

Then, HOLY BREATH of LIFE we see the courage, love, and determination of Ukrainian people of all ages as they resist the advances of a dead empire.

We see the hundreds of volunteers serving meals to those who have sought refuge in other countries.

We hear the pleas of President Zelensky as he begs for assistance from world leaders, while standing strong and defiant, encouraging his people to defend their home.

We also see the hundreds of Russians risking their lives as they protest this war.
Who are we human beings?
HOLY ONE, may we understand that we carry both the violence and the loving tenderness within us.
May we realize that the air we breathe is you.
May we breathe deeply and delve deeply into the messiness of ourselves and face the dual aspects of who we are and choose to evolve into love.
We live in you and you in us.
We are unfinished human beings in the process of becoming human. May we choose to become your LOVE.

Jane Winstanley

SOURCE of life and love and hope.
This Lent I need to Fast from images of death and destruction – man's inhumanity to man.
Instead, I need to Feast on images of love – humanity at her best.
The reality of death and destruction of war and chaos lead me to despair.
And I feel helpless to change this world.
Then I am challenged by another reality – people's compassion for each other.
I see self-giving love offered to strangers.
Then I am inspired to do beautiful things for others.
HOLY COMFORTER – strengthen me to be a comforter too.
I would like to shelter under the shadow of your wings and hide from today's news.
But I am the one called to give strength, to shade the homeless, to provide for the hungry.
I am one of the safe, the privileged, the fortunate in this world.
GENEROUS CREATOR – you provide enough for all on this planet. What drives us to constantly want more?
Some of us have more than enough, others have little or nothing.
Move our hearts to give generously of our time and resources. Inspire us to be counter cultural, to be satisfied with less.
To care for the stranger, the refugee, and the homeless.
Let us commit ourselves to giving more generously to food banks while inflation rises.
Let us advocate for rent controls and affordable housing. Let us put good intentions into solid actions.
HOLY ONE, keep the people of Ukraine united in their time of need. Lead us into life giving hope and not into despair.
Remind me to fast on the temptation to use violence in speech or action.
May I feast endlessly on the temptation to be compassionate, to give generously and love joyfully. Amen.

Eric Schultz

NAMED and UN-NAMED. We, all that is, has been and ever shall be is evolved from star dust – over billions of years.
As the modern version of our species - we have traced our evolution of maybe a couple million years and given our ancestors names like Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Homo Ergaster, Homo Neanderthalensis, Homo Sapiens. We try to understand ourselves by looking at ourselves, but we fall short. Names cannot contain the possibility of what we are and what we might become. Just like a name cannot define or contain all that is

sacred. YAHWEH – “I am that I am” is more than a name it is beyond naming. And yet we need to name you and all that is.

“Blessed is the ONE who comes in the name of our God.” Are we ones who come in the name of God? Can we live up to that blessing? No; but we must never stop trying.

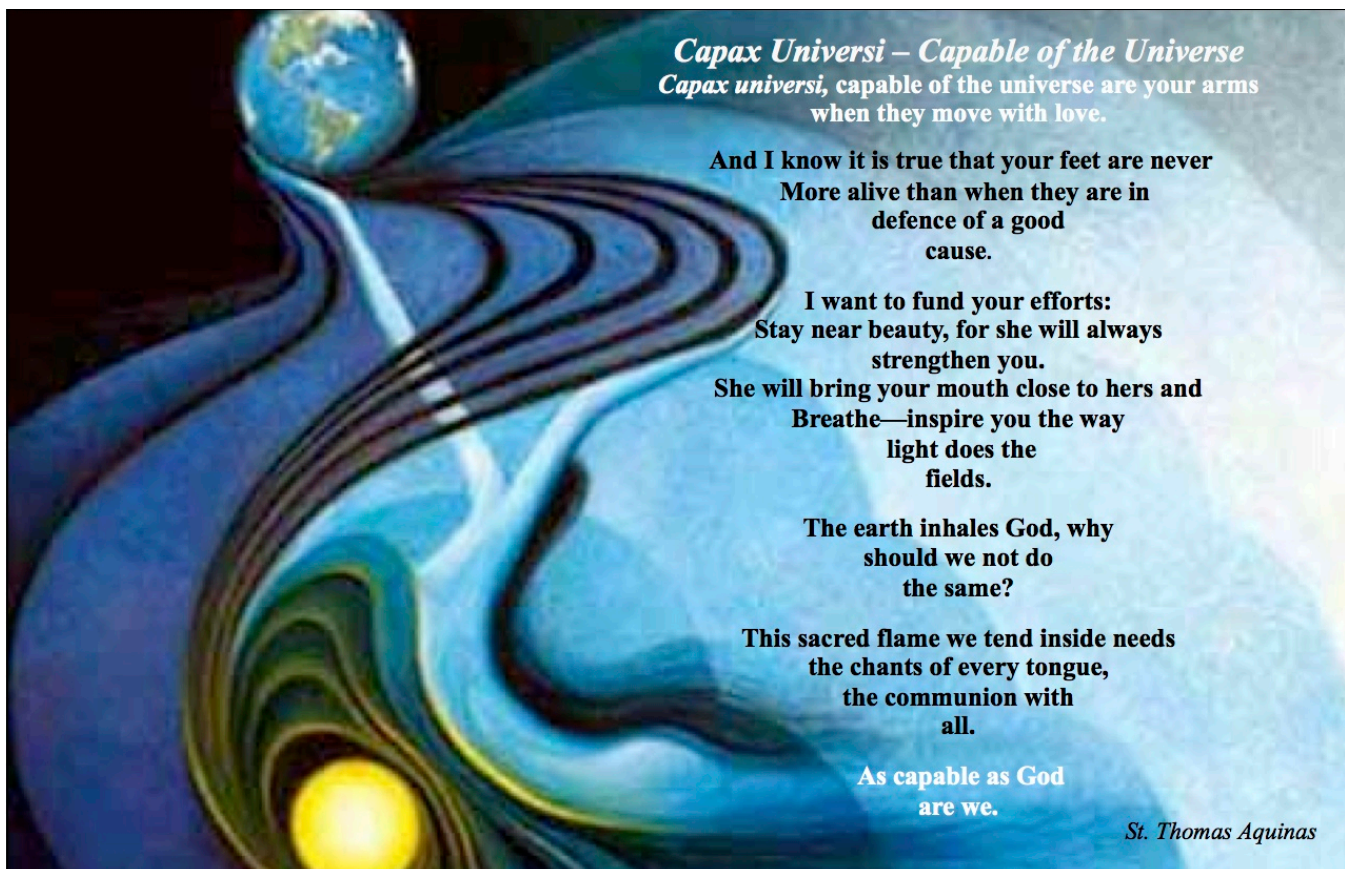
As war rages on in Ukraine hundreds, perhaps now thousands are dead. We hear of hospitals bombed, mothers and children killed. Un-named to us but named and known by those that loved and were loved by them. Oh God, we feel helpless, hopeless in the face of such anguish. Have we evolved as far as we think we have and still have the capacity inflict such suffering? May we continue to stand together and dare to be bold enough to claim your blessings and from those blessings to provide shelter and protection.

Other un-named deaths continue to be recognized within our own borders.

GREAT SPIRIT we weep with Indigenous people as more undocumented and unmarked graves of children at or near residential schools are discovered. May we bear witness to the resilience of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people who speak of hope in the midst of their grief.

We gather here in the sanctuary to record our prayers. We are grateful for Pastor Dawn, church council, the worship team and others who throughout the pandemic who have ensured we have worship, learning, and community, even when we did not meet. As we move back into this space for live and in-person worship may we recognize that the way forward will include rejoicing and hesitations, thanksgiving and grieving, hope and healing; a gathering place as a mother hen collects her babies under her wings. Most of all, may it be an expression of the LOVE that is you.

Amen.



Music: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

1. Make me a chan-nel of your peace: where there is hat-red,
 2. Make me a chan-nel of your peace: where there's des-pair in

let me bring your love; where there is in-ju-ry, your heal-ing
 life let me bring hope; where there is darkness, - - on-ly

pow'r, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 light, and where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.

3. O Spir-it, grant that I may nev-er seek so much

fine

to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be un-der-stood

as to un-der-stand, to be loved as to love with

all my soul - -

D C. al.fine.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 in giving to all that we receive,
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Blessing

LOVE is of the DIVINE, so be LOVE,
 for you are made of the DIVINE.
 You don't have to do it all,
 but you do have to do something.
 We are called to be LOVE in the world,
 LOVE to the members of every tribe, every nation, clan, and people,
 whether they be friend or foe.
 We are blessed with the opportunity to evolve
 into the embodiment of the MOTHER-HEN-GOD
 embracing, enfolding, tut tutting, cluck clucking,
 as we gather together the children of the DIVINE
 to provide aid and comfort to every tribe and nation.
 So, you LOVEly chickadees, grow a pair. Wings that is.
 The HOLY Wings which will embrace every tribe and nation in LOVE.
 Be that LOVE in the world.
 LOVE which is BEYOND the BEYOND and BEYOND that also,
 our LOVE, BELOVED and BREATH of LOVE,
 now and always. Amen.

Postlude **Prayer to Jesus**
by G. Oldroyd



Join us in person at 10:45am
Bring flowers to fill our sanctuary with Spring!
Online Worship Video will be posted
Sunday afternoon.



OFFERINGS:

There are several ways to ensure that we are able to continue meeting our commitments.

You can mail in your offerings:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
1035 Wayne Drive
Newmarket, On. L3Y 2W9

You can sign up to our Preauthorized Remittance Program PAR
contact our Treasurer Sharon Smyth who will guide you

You can go to Holy Cross' **CanadaHelps** page to donate just follow the link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/36983>

E-transfer

You can now transfer funds via email to:
holy.cross.donations@rogers.com



**CHAT about faith
in the here and now!**

Join Us!

Tuesdays - 10am over Zoom



LENT: Spring Forth

**Opportunities to CHAT about
the previous Sunday's sermon.**

visit www.holycrosslutheran.ca

Progressive in Approach; CHRISTlike in Action!



**Gather with us! In-Person
Sundays @ 10:45am**

Join us in-person Beginning March 20
at the Gathering Centre
1035 Wayne Dr. Newmarket, On.

**Sermon Recordings will be
posted Sunday afternoons**

**Progressive in Approach: CHRISTlike in Action!
Opening ourselves to the MYSTERY
which is the LOVE that is DIVINITY**

**We will return to IN-PERSON Sunday Gatherings on
Sunday March 20th 2022**



LENT - Spring Forth

Online Pre-recorded Worship
view anytime after videos are posted
Sundays at 8am

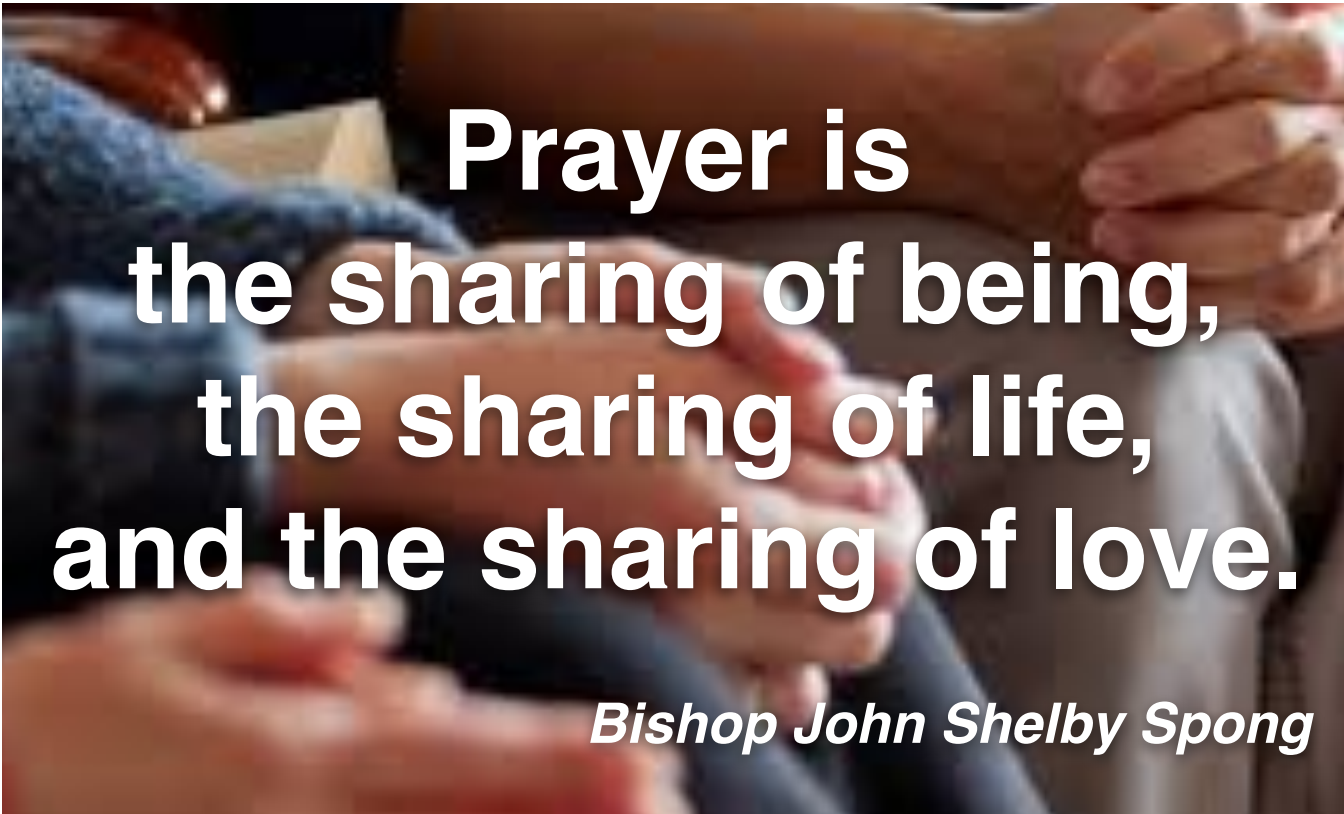
**Progressive in Approach:
CHRISTlike in Action!**

**Make sure you are on our MAILING LIST
so that we can send you all the Zoom Links
We want to see your smiling face as often as possible!
Send an email to: holycrosslutheran@rogers.com
and we will be sure to send you all our news!**

CARE TEAM:

We are doing our best to connect with our HC Family. We are grateful that at the moment we have more volunteers than we need. This will serve us well in the coming weeks. Soon, we will be creating a phone chain to ensure that we all stay connected. If you need help, or simply a conversation, **PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE** to leave a voicemail on the church phone: 905-898-1682 – we are checking these messages 3 times a day. So, someone will get back to you ASAP.

You can also call Pastor Dawn directly on her cellphone 905-868-0897.



**Prayer is
the sharing of being,
the sharing of life,
and the sharing of love.**

Bishop John Shelby Spong