#### WE WEAR THE MASK: SERVICE FOR WEEK OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Note: Please have bread and juice available for communion. If you have Mardi Gras beads, you are welcome to wear them, and have a facemask to use during prayer.

\*PRELUDE "Come Home Running"

**Chris Tomlin** 

**Welcome and Announcements** – Grace Wallace, COSSO Coordinator **Introduction** – Rebeka Maples, Director of Spiritual Formation

### **CALL TO CARNIVAL**

Leader: This is the day which the Lord has made!

All: Three parts glitter to one part shade:

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

Everything sparkles as pure as glass,

The wing of the bird, and the blade of grass.

**Everything glimmers, everything shines:** 

Even the clouds glisten in time.

Tonight - tomorrow - the leaf will fade,

But this is the day which the Lord has made:

Let us be glad and rejoice in it!

# PRAYER FOR SHROVETIDE (Pancake/Fat Tuesday)

All: O Lord, refresh us, and give us this day our daily taste.

Restore our senses, and take away our fear of fat; make us glad for all we have.

Give us grace to live and share the good things you have given: to eat and fast when it is time, to worship you and serve as you have blessed us, with the dew of heaven, the fatness of earth, living water and bread from heaven.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE (for Transfiguration, Week of Ash Wednesday): 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

\*SONG "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" Chris Tomlin

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Week of Ash Wednesday)

(Holding a mask)

Leader: We wear the mask in Ordinary Time to hide our sin.

Yesterday we wore the mask to keep a vicious virus out.

Today we wear the mask to hide our face and celebrate, wearing shiny beads and having fun.

Tomorrow we begin the fast,

giving up and taking on, habits that hold us back.

But one day all the masks must fall, all our disguises,

all the parts we play before the world and ourselves must end.

Now we wait for life dying on a cross, praying for the veil to be lifted and the light of Christ to shine again.

## Naming the prayers among us: please share in the chat or out loud

Leader 2: Oh God of sorrow and joy, hear the prayers we lift up to you for ourselves and others... (Looking at a mask)

God, we come to you in awe of the day of your Transfiguration, when you were changed from glory into glory. We come holding our masks and praying for you to change us and our world. We pray for those who have died and suffer still from this virus and all the division we are living with. Give us the courage and strength to continue to serve you.

Come, O gracious God, and guide us now as we enter another season and follow you to the light of Easter. Be with us in our churches as we lead your people through times of sorrow and joy, in living and dying. Renew our faith and strength to follow you as you have called us, to serve you where you lead us, and to be your presence wherever we are.

God of wilderness places and mountaintop graces, hear us as we pray. Amen.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

(adapted from "A Liturgy for Transfiguration Sunday," by Thom M Shuman)

### **INVITATION**

We don't know if Transfiguration or Crucifixion happened exactly as we are told. But we believe that the stories are in the Gospels for a reason, that they say something to us about how following Jesus will transform our lives and our world; that love is stronger than hate; that we are loved; that goodness is the path we are meant to walk, that others will help us and that we can be a guide to them on the Way. This is not our table or the church's table, this is the Lord's table – and everyone is welcome.

# **GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: May the God of mountaintops and desert places be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

People of God, lift up your hearts.

We open our hearts to the One who calls us.

Beloved of God, offer your praises to the One who is with you now.

We lift our voices to thank God for loving us.

Creator God, through the chaos of creation you spoke, and mountains were formed and streams rolled down with justice. Created in your image,

we were tempted by sin and hid ourselves from life and joy.

You did not turn away from us, sending prophets to call us back,

but we did not listen to them.

And so, with those in every time and place we still offer our song to you:

HOLY, HOLY! GOD WHO LISTENS TO OUR CRIES,

ALL CREATION TREMBLES WITH SORROW AND JOY.

**HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!** 

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES WITH WORDS OF LIFE.

**HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!** 

Holy are you, Wonder of wonders, and blessed is the One who reigns in peace.

He set aside his glory to give us grace and peace.

He did not listen to our complaints and gave us hope.

He went to the cross, ripped off the mask of death

so we could see the light of resurrection.

As we celebrate this holy meal,

we speak again of the mystery of our faith:

CHRIST DIED. CHRIST ROSE. CHRIST WILL COME.

#### BLESSING THE BREAD AND CUP

As we gather around your table, pour out the blessings of your Spirit,

transform these simple gifts into the grace which changes lives.

Now, as we feed on your Word which is broken for us,

strengthen us to go into the world and share your good news.

(break bread and eat)

As your Cup of peace fills us, inspire us to offer your peace wherever we are.

(lift cup and drink)

And when all of this comes to an end and we are gathered in your glory,

at the feast with all the saints, we will sing forever of your grace and peace.

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Amen.

\*SONG "God of Grace and God of Glory"

**UMH 577** 

### **BLESSING FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY**

At the end of the Carnival feasts, the masks came off and the last 'alleluia' was sung, written on paper and buried in a box. This was the sign that fasting now would begin and 'alleluia' would not be sung again until Easter morning. (write Alleluia & put in small box or bury outside)

Leader: Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;

Alleluia, is the anthem ever sung by choirs on high;

All: Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

While we may not follow all the ancient traditions...

## **SENDING FORTH**

Leader: From mountaintops of wonder, we will go:

All: Taking God's grace into the world.

Walking the deserts of life, we will go:

Listening to the voice of God's presence among us.

In sorrow and joy, we will go:

Following the One who called us here and calls us still.

Amen.

\*POSTLUDE "God of Grace" by Paul Manz

Jaebon Hwang, organ

Prayers adapted from: <u>A Lent Sourcebook: The Forty Days</u>, (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1990); <u>God of Desert Places</u>, by Rebeka Maples (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose, 2018, <u>www.ionabooks.com</u>); <u>The Soft Petals of Grace: Communion liturgies</u>, by Thom M. Shuman (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose, 2016).