

Red Lodge Community Church, UCC
April 28, 2024

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL RINGING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

The Lord is in this Holy Temple, let all the children of God rejoice. We are called as family to hold up holy hands and praise the God of love and healing for all! Not some, but for all people regardless of where you are on life's journey or who you are in the Kingdom of God.

One: We are here to worship!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are here to lift up Holy hands!

Many: Hallelujah!

One: We are the Kingdom of God!

All: Glory Hallelujah. Let us praise the name of the Lord!

OPENING HYMN **NCH #289 Come Forth O Love Divine**

INVOCATION

Reveal Yourself

Reveal Yourself now

Rise up in this assembly

Show us a manifestation of who You are

I call forth a knitting together by Your Spirit

Of all created beings within the sound of my voice

Reveal Yourself

Reveal Yourself now

Awaken within each one of us

Reach out from within each one of us

So that your intangible essence will be felt and known

Reveal Yourself

Reveal Yourself now
You have promised to make yourself known
I call forth the revelation of Your presence
Of You as Presence within, between, and around us
We step into Your Sacred Circle
We invite You into our Sacred Circle
As we reveal ourselves to You
We also reach out to You and call upon You
Reveal Yourself now

PASSING THE PEACE

As a sign of our acceptance of God's grace and our intention to follow Christ more faithfully, let us greet those near us with a sign of peace.

MESSAGE WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION *(Responsive)*

Righteous God, we find ourselves as your hands, legs, heart and spirit here in the earth. As your children, as were your disciples, we are called to manifest a Gospel of love, justice, reconciliation and healing in the present world. But our concern for a just and egalitarian world too often dissipates at the point of our discomfort. Forgive us for our humanity and our frailty as we dwell in your presence and seek transformation and new energy for the work of your ministry. Revive us again O Lord.

One: O Lord Revive...

Many: Our love for the Kingdom!

One: O Lord Revive...

Many: Our yearning for You!

One: O Lord Revive...

Many: Our desire for reconciliation!

One: O Lord Revive...

Many: Our need for healing! Amen!

WORDS OF GRACE *(Responsive)*

Just as Jesus endowed his disciples, his family, with moments of rest and amazement, it is good for us, kinfolk, to bask in the glorious and loving presence of God. Fortunately, God does not condemn us when we too often

choose to linger there rather than enter into difficult, tough, unfamiliar or even mundane places and spaces. But I'm so glad that with grace and compassion, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit lifts, informs and propels us in the direction we should go to heal, deliver and resurrect.

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Lift us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Inform us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Propel us!

One: Come Holy Spirit.

Many: Shower us with your Grace and Mercy!

Amen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR Aramaic version

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us – make it useful: Create your reign of unity now – Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews. Truly – power to these statements – may they be the ground from which all my actions grow: Amen

SACRED TEXT: John 14: 15-27 (The English Standard Version)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to

him.” Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

One: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks Be to God

SPECIAL MUSIC Selections from Bach Cantata No. 140 “Wachet Auf” played by Dr. Lynell Kruckeberg

SERMON: Stay Awake With Me; An invitation from the Holy Spirit

Helen Mackay

Video Insert: “Stay Awake With Me” by Gayan Macher

**HAZEL CHAMBERLAIN FUND Libby Gardner Hands on Global
Audrey Clark DSVS**

Invitation to Generosity

The Holy Spirit comes down to us as a gift of presence, compassion, and companionship. We honor and uphold the Kingdom here on earth through our stewardship; as we are called to present our lives as a living testimony of the God who has created each one of us to be unique and minister to a world that needs what we have to offer in time, talent and treasure. Let us now uphold the glory of God by the giving of our gifts in the spirit of generosity.

OFFERING w/OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(Unison)*

Generous God, may these gifts glorify your spirit and meet the needs of your Kindom. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **NCH #288 Let It Breathe On Me**

BENEDICTION

May the glory of God transform you.

May the Holy Spirit revive you.

May you embrace difference as strength.

May you reach the high and low places.

May you spread the Good News of relationship.

May you be renewed and empowered to an ethic of inclusion, care, mutual support, solidarity, and unity that calls us to treat one another as family.

May thy Kindom come.

For the glory of God and the hope of the world.

Go in peace and Kinship to serve.

SENDING HYMN **NCH #283 Spirit of the Living God**

For information on joining Red Lodge Community Church, please talk with any of our deacons, or contact Mark Sechler at 573-415-7722 or sechlermc@gmail.com.

Sundays our worship service is recorded with video and audio. If you wish to restrict the use of photos and videos that include you, please complete the Photo/Video Opt-out form and deliver it to the church office.

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Kindom: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Pentecost was written by Pastor Kevin Tindell, Pastor of Community Engagement, GATHER Church Chicago and Vice President of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the UCC.