

A collage of hands holding various objects like chalk and paint, with a central circular logo containing the text "OPEN Invitation". The background is dark with colorful, abstract patterns and textures. The hands are of various skin tones and are holding items like blue and white chalk, a green paintbrush, and a pink paintbrush. The central logo is a white circle with the word "OPEN" in large, bold, yellow and orange letters, and "Invitation" in smaller, white and orange letters below it.

OPEN
Invitation

**YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE AT
PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

March 20, 2022

***Please stand in body and/or spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING MUSIC**

#528 You Are the Seed

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *When our hearts are empty, God fills our ears with stories of love.*

Many: **God thinks differently than we do.**

One: *When our souls are parched, God leads us to living water.*

Many: **God's ways are different from ours.**

One: *When we grow weary of searching, God takes our hand and leads us home.*

Many: **God's love is different than ours.**

***OPENING PRAYER (in unison)**

Molder and Shaper of the earth, you have built us up, made us to be people to love one another, and by loving others we love you. When we have stretched ourselves thin, mold us back to be connected with you. When we have been pushed down, renew our strength and courage to reach up and extend out into the world. When we feel torn and broken, mend us back together. You are the Potter, the Mender, the One who renews us. This morning reach our ears and our hearts, make us new, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN**

#433 In The Bulb There is a Flower

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALTER READING: Psalm 63,

page 660 New Century Hymnal

SUNG PSALTER RESPONSE

#22 Sing Praise to God

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS, INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLICAL TESTIMONY: Luke 13:1-9

13At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

CONTEMPORARY TESTIMONY: Fig Tree Fruits by Ken Rookes

If you repent, the much-loved doctrine declares, you will be forgiven. A simple-enough transaction, with the reception of forgiveness transmuted, by divine alchemy, into the golden currency of paradisiacal admittance. With much tears and wailing, repentance is enacted, souls are pronounced saved, and heaven's host, we are told, prepares another room. But what if repentance is no mere turning point, arrived at once and finally? What if it is an attitude that grows, develops, and manifests itself in actions; many and uncounted, small and large; with an impetus towards sharing and justice and generosity and peace?

And what if the second chance grace is all about such fruitfulness?

Fig tree fruits from plants worth their place in the garden.

SERMON

Age Old Blame Game

OFFERING: OFFERTORY *DOXOLOGY & DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Gardener God, accept the offerings of time, talent and money that we bring this day; the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. May the fruits of your love, justice, peace and reconciliation, grow and multiply. Amen

(see insert)

*HYMN

#448 Take My life, God, Let It Be

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP TIME BEFORE CHURCH. Beginning at 9:30.

PEACE UCC LENTEN BOOK STUDY will meet Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall for the duration of Lent: 6:30 soup & 7 discussion. We are reading and discussing Amy-Jill Levine's book "Entering the Passion of Jesus". All are welcome.

Choir rehearsals on March 30th, April 6th and April 13th starting after the lenten book study around 8:00. Will sing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. All voices are welcome.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Tilden will be holding their annual **ST. PAT'S BASH FUNDRAISER TODAY**, Sunday, March 20th from 11am - 2pm in the OLMC parish hall, 300 E. 2nd St. in Tilden.

On the menu are soups, sandwiches, desserts and beverages for a free will donation. Join in the fun with a variety of games and raffles. Prizes include a Hisense 50" Smart TV, Handmade Quilt, Husker Football Tickets, Cash Prizes, and much more. Raffles begin at 2pm, and you need not be present to win. Bring your friends and family, and test your luck at the St. Pat's Bash.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING will be collected next Sunday, March 27th. Please use the envelope in the bulletin for this offering.

(over)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: Maundy Thursday 7:00
Sunrise Service 6:25 am with breakfast
following at church
Easter Sunday Worship 10:30

PASTOR MELANIE can be reached at (402)841-1450 or (402)500-3412
or revdocmel@gmail.com



NURSING CENTER/HOMEBOUND PRAYER LIST:

Deloris Ashburn Clara Ritter Diann Larson

CONCERNS

Pierce family who lost 3 children in house fire.

War in Ukraine

“Hate-full” and Divided America

Members of Tilden Church of Christ

Graham Sayers, infant son of Lisa (Henseleit) and Jay Sayers

Keith Redinbaugh	Diann Larson	Ciera Nygren
Bill Rittscher	Clara Ritter	Gene Fields
Jesse Johnson	Dustin Meyer	Eric Heithoff
McCoy Backer	Laura Rutjens	Fr. Pat Niels
Deloris Mozer	Michelle Dittmer	Kandi Hart
Deloris Ashburn	Dave Carstens	Carter Brown
John Johnson	Holli Perez	Theresa Sullivan Meyer