

# Wesley Park United Methodist Church

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

10 am - January 22, 2017

## We Gather Together

Prelude

Welcome

Act of Centering

One: As we come together, let us settle into stillness...  
(silent prayer)

One: Slowly, ever so slowly, we center our minds and our hearts...  
(silent prayer)

One: Let your cares and your weariness fall away...  
(silent prayer)

One: Enter deeply into a sense of peacefulness...  
(silent prayer)

One: We are at one with the universe...  
(silent prayer)

One: We are at one with the sun and stars...  
(silent prayer)

One: We are at one with the One who is Mystery,  
who created the heavens and the earth...  
(silent prayer)

One: O marvelous Mystery!

All: **I am one with the One who is Mystery,  
the One who created me, and loves me,  
and whose Spirit lives in me. Amen.**

\*Hymn 581

**Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service**

Children's Blessing

*You are loved, and a child of God!*

Gift of Music (Don Philips)

***We Will Be Your People***

## Receiving the Word

Prayer of Preparation

Message

*New Beginnings*

Rev. Gary Step

### **GOOD ENDINGS CREATE A NEW TOMORROW**

What we call the beginning is often the end and to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from. T.S. Elliot

### **Endings are a Natural Part of Life**

"For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven.  
A time to be born and a time to die.  
A time to plant and a time to harvest." Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

### **Necessary Endings**

"It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going." Hebrews 11:8 (NLT)

### **THE NEUTRAL ZONE**

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry." Matthew 4:1-2 (NLT)

### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

"From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." Matthew 4:17 (NLT)

### **JESUS INVITES**

"One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, 'Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!' And they left their nets at once and followed him." Matthew 4:18-20 (NLT)

### **Time To Go Fishing**

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

### **Good Endings Create a New Tomorrow!**

"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)

We Respond to the Word

\*Hymn

**Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
 I once was lost, but now I'm found. Was blind, but now I see.  
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear. And grace my fears relieved.  
 How gracious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.  
 My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
 And like a flood, His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace.  
 The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
 He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.  
 My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
 And like a flood, His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace.  
 My chains are gone. I've been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
 And like a flood, His mercy reigns. Unending love, amazing grace.  
 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow. The sun forbear to shine.  
 But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine,  
 will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Offering Gifts to God and the World

Stewardship Invitation

Offertory

\*Doxology #64

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.**  
**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,**  
**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We Go Forth Into the World

\*Hymn 572

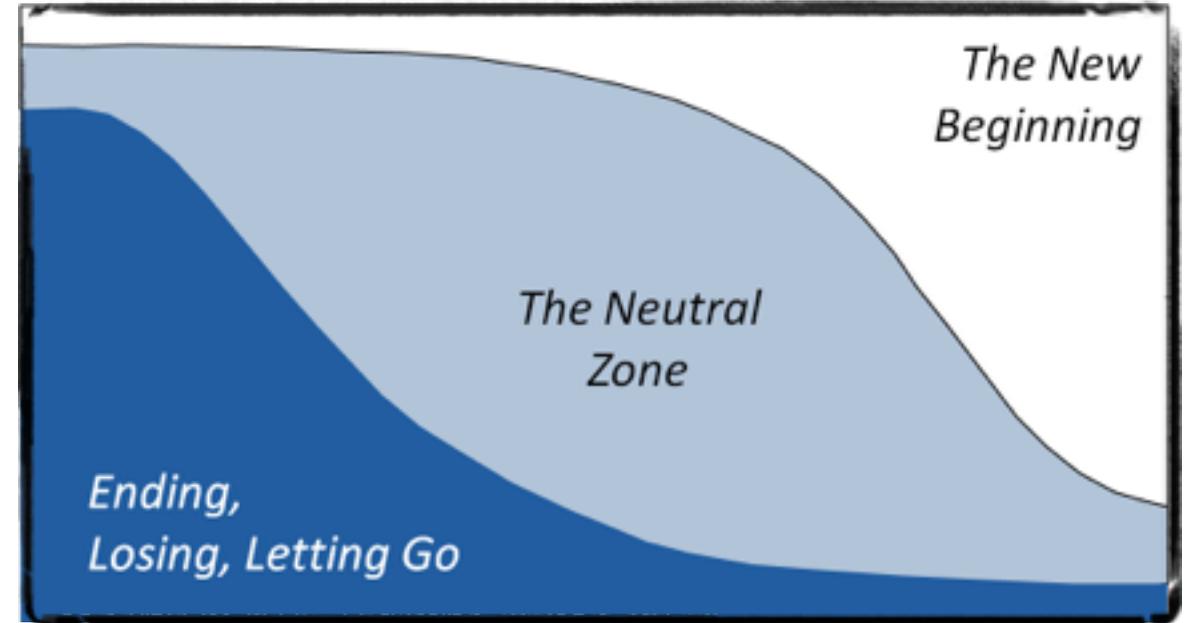
Pass It On

\*Benediction

Postlude

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*\*Please stand as you are able or comfortable.*

# Wesley Park United Methodist Church



**10 am Worship**  
**Followed by the Vital Church Initiative**  
**Consultation Report**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 22, 2017**