COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today to claim our relationship with you. We pray for the commitment to grow together, sharing the gifts you give us with others here and in the wider world. Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted, and help us forgive those who have hurt us. Give us strength and discipline to nurture our relationship with you: to care for every part of your creation; to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need; to work to end all war, and violence, and discord; and to respond joyfully when you call, freely giving our selves as you have shown the way. We open our hearts to you and your creation in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.

HYMN

THE WORD SCRIPTURE SERMON SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: Let us go out into the world, giving thanks for the wonders of creation and giving our lives to the work of repairing the world together. In the name of the Holy One – Creator, Teacher, Spirit – let us greet one another with signs of peace. All: Amen.

SEEKERS CHURCH A Church of the Saviour Community

Lent 2020 How Can These Things Be?

GATHERING

ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

For God so loves the world That she gives us awe, Shivers on our arms, Shooting stars.

For God so loves the world That God gives us Chrysalis to butterfly, Horizon lines, The ability to feel sore After good work.

For God so loves the world That he gives us The day's first light, Ancient stories, The ocean inside a shell.

For God so loves the world That they give us Whimsy, And attention, Righteous anger, Winged birds, Our steps that Can be heard Together.

Laura Martin, Associate Pastor Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ, Arlington, Va. Used by permission

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader:	Holy Creator of the Universe,
	we are like dry bones in the desert,
	waiting for your life giving breath.

- People: Gather us together and breathe into us that we might live.
- Leader: Abundant Spring of Living Water, you gave water from a rock to your thirsty people in the desert.
- People: Give us your living water so we will never be thirsty again.
- Leader: Eternal Pregnant Mystery, You have promised us new life – A life born of the spirit.
- All: How can these things be?

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SONG AS THE CHILDREN LEAVE FOR CLASS Jesus loves us as we grow, meets us on the paths we go, keeps us safe and keeps us free, helps us learn who we should be.

> Yes, Jesus loves us. Yes, Jesus helps us. Yes, Jesus shows us the best way we can go.

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

- Leader: Eternal Creator, every day you fill the world with shooting stars, with birds and butterflies, with oceans and mountains, with fields and flowers.
- People: How can it be that sometimes we get so caught up in fear and frustration that we do not notice the everyday wonders of creation?
- Leader: Eternal Spirit, every day you fill us with whimsy and attention and righteous anger.
- People: How can it be that sometimes we get so caught up in politics and protest that we don't even hear the sound of our own footsteps?
- Leader: Eternal Teacher, how can it be that you love us every day, even when we ignore your command to love one another?
- All: Holy One, Holy Three, forgive us when we forget that you love the world into being.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

- Leader: The One who loves the world into being gives us our lives, sustains us through hardship, and forgives us even when we forget the wonders that surround us.
- All: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION