

# Trembling Love

Minneapolis/St. Paul Church of Christ  
Sunday, January 21, 2018

# Hosea 1:2-3

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

# Hosea 2

Say of your brothers, 'My people,' and of your sisters, 'My loved one.'

“Rebuke your mother, rebuke her,  
for she is not my wife,  
and I am not her husband.

Let her remove the adulterous look from her face  
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.

<sup>3</sup>Otherwise I will strip her naked  
and make her as bare as on the day she was born;  
I will make her like a desert,  
turn her into a parched land,  
and slay her with thirst.

She has not acknowledged that I was the one  
who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil,  
who lavished on her the silver and gold—  
which they used for Baal.

“Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens,  
and my new wine when it is ready.  
I will take back my wool and my linen,  
intended to cover her naked body.  
So now I will expose her lewdness  
before the eyes of her lovers;  
no one will take her out of my hands.

I will stop all her celebrations:  
her yearly festivals, her New Moons,  
her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals.  
I will ruin her vines and her fig trees,  
which she said were her pay from her lovers;  
I will make them a thicket,  
and wild animals will devour them.  
I will punish her for the days  
she burned incense to the Baals;  
she decked herself with rings and jewelry,  
and went after her lovers,  
but me she forgot,”  
declares the Lord.

“Therefore I am now going to allure her;  
I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.

There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she will respond as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

“In that day,” declares the Lord,  
“you will call me ‘my husband’;  
you will no longer call me ‘my master.’  
I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;  
no longer will their names be invoked.

In that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the creatures that move along the ground.

Bow and sword and battle

I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.

I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.

I will betroth you in faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the Lord.

“In that day I will respond,”  
declares the Lord—

“I will respond to the skies,  
and they will respond to the earth;  
and the earth will respond to the grain,  
the new wine and the olive oil,  
and they will respond to Jezreel.  
I will plant her for myself in the land;  
I will show my love to the one I called  
‘Not my loved one.’  
I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’  
‘You are my people’;  
and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

# Hosea 3

The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

So I bought her for fifteen shekels<sup>l</sup>of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods.

Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

FLAMING  
PROSTITUTE

FLIRTATIONOUS  
FICKLE

COMPLIANT

PASSIONATE  
ALL-IN

