



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN
lent

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March 26, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Startle us, O God, with your truth, and open our minds to your Spirit, that we may be one with Christ our Lord, and serve as faithful disciples, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES

One: Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life.
ALL: *Those who believe in Christ will never die.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SILENT PROCESSION

PRELUDE

Lento
Justin Little

William Blanchard

CHORAL INTROIT

Behold the Lamb of God
Chancel Choir

Hopson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Pilgrims, we are invited to journey through this season of Lent
ALL: *towards the One who calls us each by a new name.*
One: Disciples, we walk with Jesus wherever he leads us,
ALL: *putting our fears, our doubts, our longings behind us.*
One: Believers, we seek to trust the God who always surprises us,
ALL: *whose promises take on flesh and blood in the good news called Jesus.*

*HYMN: 634 *To God be the Glory*

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our self-centered choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we frequently fail.
And yet, we can confess our sins, and we can confess Christ as our Lord. Let us confess our sins and repent, seeking new life in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious Redeemer,

One: You call us to be your voices in this world, yet too often, we stay silent.

ALL: *You call us to be your hands in this world, yet too often, we do little.*

One: You call us to be your feet in this world, yet too often, we go our own way.

ALL: *When we meet those who are doubting and say nothing, forgive us.*

One: When we meet those who need your touch and do nothing, forgive us.

ALL: *When we are called to take up your cross but carry nothing, forgive us. Breathe life into these bones and bring freedom to these lives, that we might declare with heart and soul and voice, that you are our Lord and our God. Amen.*

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves.

ALL: *By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen!*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!**

WAYFARING STRANGER

You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

ANTHEM

Jesus, So Lowly
Chancel Choir

Friedell

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, Holden + Marigold Taylor (see insert)

HYMN: 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (stanza 1)*

KINGDOM

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN: 250 In the Bulb There is a Flower**

PROMISE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 37:1-14 (pg. 806)*

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Congregation standing, if able*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *John 11:17-27, 39-45* (pg. 107)

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. ***ALL: Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Reflections on the Session Retreat

RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Meditation 163

Justin Little

Paul Page

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

SENDING

*CHARGE + BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Psalm 148

Chancel Choir

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Agincourt Hymn

Justin Little

John Dunstable