

GATHERING

Musical Prelude: Take the Bread and Wine by Faye Lopez

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

Alone upon the altar of ritual and not of sacrifice an ancient symbol stands, waiting to be lit not for warmth but for light, a simple sign of beginning, a reminder that light dispels and removes. It is who God is, a remover of darkness.

Call to Worship

The days are growing longer but creation continues to be held in winter's icy grip. The God of Noah and Jesus promises us that new life is not far off. God makes promises and keeps them. God has promised us life. The promise is coming true. We worship a God who will never fail us.

V.U. 110 A Lenten Prayer

God of love,
As in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
 living according to your holy will.
Keep our feet firmly in the way
 where Christ leads us,
How far lips speak the truth
 that Christ teaches us,
Fill our bodies with the life
 that is Christ within us.
In his holy name we pray. Amen

HYMN VU #108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights

1. Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.

2. The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.

3. We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of life.

4. And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.

5. So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!

6. Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing
and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings,
on Easter day will rise again!

A Prayer for The Day

As we prepare for our Lenten journey, O God, give us the courage to venture into the places of challenge. Teach us how to grow as disciples of Jesus. May we search out the dark forces of oppression and defeat them with the light of Jesus. When we come to the end of the journey, show us how to stand at the foot of the cross, to look up and to understand Your love. AMEN

V.U. 633 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Ministry of Music: Nancy Quinn “Let us Break Bread Together” Traditional Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

The Word Of God

Genesis 9: 8-17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ ¹²God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

Psalm 25 - Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

Of David.

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Mark 1: 9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Message "The God who remembers " **Rev. Keith Rameshwar**

Offertory Hymn

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are Yours

We are an offering

All that we have

All that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to You

We give to You

Offertory Prayer

Generous God, we cannot number the blessings You have bestowed on us. In this season of Lent may we be willing to share with others that they may have even the necessities of life. May Your love inspire us to become messengers who are willing to offer our service sacrificially as Jesus offered himself in Your Name. Amen

The Prayers of The People

The Prayer of Jesus [The Lord's Prayer]

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them that trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom
And the power and the glory
For ever and ever Amen

V.U. 114 Forty Days and Forty Nights

1 Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

2 Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about our way;
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

3 Shall not we your trial share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?

4 If temptations, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
you their vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by your side;
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

Commissioning

Noah's God has graciously restored the cosmos to its pristine beauty. Let us strive to live within the Creator's vision for the whole created order.

Blessing

We go to hold ourselves accountable for maintaining a just and equal sharing of all God's gifts. May the cosmic Christ walk with us and may we never forget the One who accompanies us on our journey.

Musical Postlude: "Lord, I want to be Christian" American Folk Hymn arr. Cindy Berry