

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent,
personal preparation for the worship of God.*

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

- Prelude for Lent Basil Harwood
What Wondrous Love American folk hymn
arr. Aaron David Miller
Lenten Prelude Eric H. Thiman
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need American folk hymn
arr. A. D. Miller

Introit

“Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me” Mary Kay Parrish

*Doxology (*sung*) The Hymnal, 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Call to Worship

Minister: *We gather around sacred stories
not because they happened in the past,
but because they make things present for us today.*

People: **We were there!**

Minister: *Like the woman from Bethany
who poured out love for Jesus,
we begin our Lenten journey
by pouring out love for God.*

People: **We are here!**

Minister: *Let us enter the story
and worship our God.*

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn 401 “Here in This Place”

**Stand as you are able.*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.
We are misled by pride,
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained
and great when we are small.
We have failed in love,
neglected justice,
and ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Litany for Lent

Minister: *O Christ,*
out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope;
you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you.

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: *O Christ, fountain of life and holiness,*
you have taken away our sins.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions
and were bruised for our iniquities.

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: *O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,*
our life and our resurrection,
our peace and reconciliation:

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: *O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,*
hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

People: **Save us, Lord.**

Minister: *Jesus, Lamb of God,*

People: **have mercy on us.**

Minister: *Jesus, bearer of our sins,*

People: **have mercy on us.**

Minister: *Jesus, redeemer of the world,*

People: **grant us peace.**

Minister: *Amen.*

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Concerns of the Church

Anthem

“Fragrant the Prayer” Curt Oliver

Fragrant the prayer, breath of the rose in air.

Fragrant the prayer my child taught me.

The Son of Mary bought me; the Son of Mary craved me;

the Son of Mary saved me, fragrant the prayer of the child,

breath of the rose of air. In grey of morn Christ was forlorn.

In grey of morn the birds call kindly; be not my eyes shut blindly.

The Son of Mary wept me; the Son of Mary kept me.

In grey of morn Christ was forlorn.

O countenance like the ember,

bid me remember the Lamb of God sore taken, the Lamb of God forsaken,

the Lamb of God under clay three days till resurrection day.

O countenance like the ember, bid me remember.

Fragrant the prayer, breath of the rose in air.

Fragrant the prayer my child taught me; bid me remember.

Listening for the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter (*responsively*)

Psalm 25:1–10 Old Testament, page 475

*Gloria Patri (*sung*). The Hymnal, 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Mark 14:3–9 New Testament, page 48

Minister: *The Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Extravagant Love John W. Vest

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 201 “A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) from *The Brief Statement of Faith*, PC(USA)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

“Amen” William Byrd

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Agnus Dei” Karl Jenkins

Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

*Presentation of the Offering and Response

For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
 with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
 here we of - fer, Lord, our prai - ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
 Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

God of compassion,
 we praise you that you look upon our frail lives
 with love and understanding
 and that you desire for us all
 new life in Jesus Christ.
 We are overwhelmed by your extravagant love,
 which goes to the cross for us,
 endures the grave,
 and leads us to new life.
 By your Spirit,
 strengthen our souls
 to be brave and bold in Christ's service.
 Take our offerings,
 and use them and us for your purposes,
 in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

Bearing the Word into the World

*Hymn 166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

*Benediction and Response

Postlude

A Festive Trumpet Tune Gilbert Martin

Worship Leaders

Judith L. Watt, Kathi Bates, Victoria G. Curtiss, John W. Vest

The Music Today

- 9:30 The Youth Choir; the Handbell Choir; the Morning Choir
Laura Perkett, oboist; Beena David and Brett Potts, soloists
- 11:00 The Children's Choir; the Handbell Choir; the Morning Choir
Laura Perkett, oboist; Beena David and Brett Potts, soloists
- John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music
Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist
Katy Sinclair, Associate Director of Music for Children and Youth
Briana Belding-Peck, Director of the Handbell Choir

Worship Notes

JOIN US DURING LENT FOR “WE WERE THERE,” a sermon series looking at the events of Holy Week through the eyes of biblical characters who were there. Each Sunday's lectern parament evokes the theme of that day.

- Sunday, February 22 “Anointing Woman” (Mark 14:3–9)
Sunday, March 1 “Slave with Cut-off Ear” (Luke 22:39–53)
Sunday, March 8 “Peter” (Mark 14:28–38, 66–72)
Sunday, March 15 “High Priest Caiaphas” (Mark 14:53–65)
Sunday, March 22 “Judas” (Matthew 26:14–16, 47–50)
Palm Sunday, March 29 “The Crowd/The Mob” (Mark 11:1–11, 15:6–15)
Good Friday, April 3 “The Centurion” (Mark 15:33–39)
Easter Sunday, April 5 “The Women at the Tomb” (Mark 16:1–8)

THE BULLETIN COVER photo depicts snow drifts around the courtyard fountain after the snowstorm three Sundays ago. The cover quote is from Marcus Borg's book *Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most*.

SOURCES AND CREDITS: Hymn tune names—as well as composers of the music and authors of the text—are listed in the hymnal with each hymn. The words to “For the Life that You Have Given” are by Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1987; music is by Morgan Simmons © 1990, 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

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