

Prelude

- Draw Near with Faith. Malcolm Archer
- Elegy. Edward Bairstow
- Nearer My God to Thee Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

*Call to Worship

Minister: *We come to worship God as the Lenten season begins, aware of our frailty and our failings.*

People: **We come seeking God’s mercy, acknowledging our mortality.**

Minister: *Having received the waters of baptism,*

People: **we are now marked with ashes.**

Minister: *May we humble ourselves before God not with a yoke of burden,*

People: **but a mantle of freedom in Jesus’ name.**

*Prayer

*Hymn 165 “The Glory of These Forty Days”

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading of Scripture. Selections from Isaiah 58

Leader: *Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure.
Is this the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down one’s head like a rush,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes?*

People: **Is this not rather the fast that I choose:
to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry;
when you see the naked, to cover them?
Then shall your light break forth like the dawn.**

Leader: *Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry, and the Lord will say “Here I am.”*

Reading of Scripture

Mark 9:30–37 New Testament, page 42

Lenten Reflection Shannon J. Kershner

*Hymn 215 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days” Erik Meyer

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
As thou with Satan didst contend and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.
As thou didst hunger, bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.
And through these days of penitence, and through thy Passiontide,
yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.
Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over, past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last!*

Litany of Penitence

Minister: *Holy and merciful God,*

People: **we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Minister: *We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.*

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Minister: *We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.*

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Minister: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

People: **we confess to you, O God.**

Minister: *Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference
to injustice and cruelty,*

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts
toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,*

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: *For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

People: **accept our repentance, O God.**

Minister: *Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.*

People: **Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Declaration of Pardon

Minister: *Friends, believe the good news.*

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Minister: *The Lord be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: . . . *joining our voices with all the choirs
on earth and in heaven singing . . .*

Sanctus (*sung*) The Hymnal, 565

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: *You are holy, O God of majesty . . .
. . . Great is the mystery of faith!*

Memorial Acclamation (*sung*). The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Leader: *Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call . . .
. . . who taught his disciples to pray saying:*

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.

The Communion

Communion Anthem

“O Love Divine” John Hudson

*O love divine, amazing love, that brought to earth from heaven above
the Son of God, for us to die that we might dwell on high.
He died for you, he died for me, and shed his blood to make us free.
Upon the cross of Calvary, the Savior died for me.
For us a crown of thorns he bore; for us a robe of scorn he wore.
He conquered death and rent the grave and lives again, our souls to save.
O wanderer, come, on him believe, his grace by faith receive.
Awake, arise and hear his call; the feast is spread for all.*

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

God of compassion, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Charge and Benediction

Minister: *Choose this day whom you will serve;*

People: we will choose the living God.

Minister: *The road is narrow that leads to life;*

People: we will walk the way of Christ.

Minister: *Faith is not our holding on;*

People: faith is letting go.

Minister: *We offer more than words, O God;*

People: we offer you our lives.

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish are invited to come to either the front or back of the Sanctuary to receive ashes either on the back of the hand or on the forehead.

Ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence and as a reminder that only by God’s grace are we given eternal life. Ashes are imposed with the words of Genesis 3:19:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

—Depart in silence—

Today Communion is served by intinction.

The congregation comes to the front of the Sanctuary by the center aisle to receive the bread, which they then dip into the chalice of grape juice. (Gluten-free bread is available in a small tumbler in each basket of bread.) Worshipers return to their pews by the side aisles.

The invitation to the Lord's Supper is not just for Presbyterians or "members of the church." All who confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Even one who doubts or whose trust is wavering may receive the bread and grape juice (in place of wine) in order to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

THE SEASON OF LENT calls Christians to embrace the faith journey by reflecting upon and deepening their relationship with God and by acting upon their Christian beliefs. Although often considered a time for giving up something as a way of symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice and his struggle in the wilderness, the forty days of Lent also offer an opportunity for *taking up*. During this season, we are invited to thoughtfully take up the gifts of faith—worship, study, prayer, and service—in preparation for Holy Week and Christ's journey to the cross.

Worship Leaders

Rocky Supinger, Cornell Wilson, Abbi Heimach-Snipes, Judith L. Watt
Shannon J. Kershner

The Music Today

The Chancel Choir

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Worship Notes

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING is being received throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Elam Davies Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs. To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or write “Lenten Offering” on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Gifts can also be made online at www.bit.ly/FPCgiving.

DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS are available via Facebook (www.facebook.com/fourthchurch), Twitter (@FourthChicago), email (sign up at www.bit.ly/fpcdevotions or send email addresses to devotions@fourthchurch.org), online (www.fourthchurch.org/devotions), and in booklets in the literature racks.

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Matt Helms Children and Family Ministry

Nanette Sawyer Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

Rocky Supinger Youth Ministry

Judith L. Watt Pastoral Care

Jeffrey Doane Parish Associate for Older Adults

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John Buchanan Pastor Emeritus

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