

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

Variations on "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

arr. Janet Linker

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Pocket Prayer Quilt

Marjorie Hopkins

Introit

“God, Be Merciful To Me”

Richard Redhead, 1853

God, be merciful to me,
On thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 32)**

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,

People: Who sins are covered!

Leader: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them

People: And whose spirit is no deceit.

Leader: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning
all day long.

People: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

ALL: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

***Hymn** “How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions”

#446

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession (Psalm 32)**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

**How happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven,
whose sin is no longer held against them!**

**How happy are those who no longer lie—
to themselves or to anyone else.**

**When we refuse to admit our sin,
it eats away at us, little by little,
weakening us in body and soul.**

So, let’s come before God with our prayers of confession.

**Let’s lay before God the sin that is weighing us down,
so that we can be freed from its burden,
and receive God’s mercy and love.**

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “Lord, Have Mercy”

#551

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:1-7

Choir Anthem

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Lani Smith 1991

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, so when this course of life on earth is past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When Our Faith Is Tested!

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

***Hymn**

“The Glory of these Forty Days”

#165

Prayers of the People and 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 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.

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“We Lift Our Voices”

#710

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High." #618

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response**

"We Are the Church"



I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!



All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!

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***Postlude** Fanfare on "Deo Gracias" arr. Charles Callahan

Pastors: Steve Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Cherie Watters

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox

The liturgist for the month of February is Cherie Watters. Cherie & Steve have been residents of London since 1987, and members of the church since about 1998. Cherie is the church office manager. You can find her there Monday – Friday from 8-4:00. Cherie loves nature and animals. Many of you have met Finn, her long-haired German Shepherd. She thoroughly enjoys her grandchildren (the oldest is 18, and the youngest is 2-1/2). In her spare time, Cherie loves to read Nora Roberts and David Baldacci books, and to do research on her family genealogy.