

Full Order of Service February 25th, 2024

Lent II

Reverend. Heather Carlson

✝ You are invited to stand as you are able

Announcements/Life and Work of the Church

✝ **Introit: (VU 368 vs 1) “Holy Spirit, Truth Devine”**

Meditation for Lent II

Written by Jeanyne Slettom Ph.D available through Process and Faith Program of the Center for Process Studies

On Sunday morning, for a brief space of time, we leave behind the world of home and work and school-the world where we have our lists of things to do, activities to participate in, tasks to complete. We come here this morning seeking something else. We come here seeking a shift-from ordinary to the sacred, from doing to being. I invite you to close your eyes. Let go of your list. Recall that it is the season of Lent. Remember the parable of the Sower. The Sower throws the seed...and where it lands determines if it will grow or not grow. Think of it this way: think of the season of Lent as the Sower, the time when seeds of faith are thrown with special intensity, as a time when God calls to us in a low

gentle voice. Listen. Jesus is being drawn to Jerusalem. Where is God calling you to? What is God calling you to do?

(Silent Time)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injury done to the Earth and its ecosystems.

(A candle is extinguished)

Let us pray:

All: Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

✝️ Procession of Christ Candle

Land Acknowledgement

Affirming Statement

Lighting of Peace Candle

✝️ Call to Worship

One: How shall we come before our God?

Many: We come to celebrate God's goodness and grace.

One: As we worship, what does the Lord require of us?

Many: God calls us to do justice and to love kindness.

One: As we serve, what does the Lord require of us?

Many: God calls us to walk and worship in humility

One: Let us worship, love and serve each other. Amen

✠ **OPENING HYMN: (VU 567) “Will You Come and Follow Me”**

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

One: Loving God, Creator, Christ, and Guide, you speak words of life to us.

All: In you we find our hearts’ desire; by your grace we are saved.

One: When the way forward is unclear, you shed light.

All: When times are difficult, you stir courage and hope.

One: Our deepest longing is to know you, and to be known by you.

All: Draw near to us in our time of worship, O God, and open the way before us, so that we may follow Jesus without wavering, trusting him to lead us.

One: Although following you brings joy, O God,

All: we confess the way is sometimes hard for us.

One: We get tired and would prefer an easier road.

All: Some days the task of loving others seems hard,

One: and we ignore the needs of our neighbours.

All: Forgive us when our commitment to You wavers,

One: and our actions fall short.

All: Strengthen us to follow where you lead, and renew our energy to serve in Jesus' name. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU 959)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

NLT

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am El-Shaddai—'God Almighty.' Serve me faithfully and live a blameless life. ² I will make a covenant with you, by which I will guarantee to give you countless descendants."

³ At this, Abram fell face down on the ground. Then God said to him, ⁴ "This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of a multitude of nations! ⁵ What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham,^[a] for you will be the father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful. Your descendants will become many nations, and kings will be among them!

⁷ “I will confirm my covenant with you and your descendants^[b] after you, from generation to generation. This is the everlasting covenant: I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

Then God said to Abraham, “Regarding Sarai, your wife—her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah.^[c] ¹⁶ And I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants.”

One: This is the witness of Israel.

ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.

ANTHEM: “A Welcome Place”

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:31-38

NLT

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man^[c] must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.^[d]

³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. “Get away from me, Satan!” he said. “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?^[e] ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.

SERMON: Rev. Heather Carlson

✝HYMN: (VU 684) “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

✝ **Doxology** (VU 539 vs 2) “God of All Good”

✝ **Offertory Prayer**

One: Lord Jesus, you challenge your followers to give to God like you did, without counting the cost.

All: Use these gifts to continue your ministry of healing in this hurting world. And grant us courage so that our lives speak to others of our love for you and for them. Amen.

✝ **A NEW CREED** (VU 918)

✝ **CLOSING HYMN: (VU 806) “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**

✝ **BENEDICTION/COMMISSIONING**

✝ **CHORAL AMEN** (VU 971)

✝ **SENDING FORTH HYMN “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”**
Lyrics on PP

POSTLUDE:

*Prayers adapted from PCC Worship