



EVENING PRAYER

A Collaborative Service of Christian Worship for the People of
First Church, Congregational UCC and First United Methodist Church

Welcome

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

We implore you in Christ's name, and on his behalf:

Be reconciled to God.

The Lord's grace is freely given to us.

Don't let it be in vain.

Though he was innocent,

he suffered for our sake.

Let us honor this gift by becoming one with God,

and one with Christ's faithful disciples everywhere.



*HYMN OF PRAISE

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

ST. FLAVIAN



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us did fast and
2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, And did the vic - t'ry
3. As you did hun - ger bear and thirst, So teach us, gra - cious
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through your Pas - sion -
5. A - bide with us that when this life Of suf - fer - ing is



1. pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.
2. win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to con - quer sin.
3. Lord, To die to self, and al - ways live By your most ho - ly word.
4. tide, For - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
5. past, An Ea - ster of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898, alt. Music: *The Whole Psalmes in Foure Partes*, 1563, alt.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, you abound in grace and mercy.

Though our misdeeds constantly confront us,

and though we deserve your judgment,

we plead for your forgiveness.

You can change us.

You can transform us.

You can restore our joy.

Create a pure heart within us, Lord.

Renew us, revive us, and uphold us.

Open our mouths,

that we might proclaim your praises. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Music: David Ogden

Ho - ly God, _____ Ho - ly and strong,
Ho - ly and im - mor - tal, Havemer - cy on us. us.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 6/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a repeat sign and a half note G. The second staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The first ending is a half note G, and the second ending is a half note G. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)

Music: David Ogden

Ho - ly God, _____ Ho - ly and strong,
Ho - ly and im - mor - tal, Havemer - cy on us. us.

The musical score is identical to the one above, featuring a melody in G major and 6/4 time with two endings.

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RESPONSIVE READING

[Psalm 51:1-17](#)

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- 5 **Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

- 6 You desire truth in the inward being;[a]
 therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be made new.**
- 8 **Let me hear joy and gladness;
 let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- 9 **Hide your face from my sins,
 and blot out all my iniquities.**
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 13 **Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
 and sinners will return to you.**
- 14 **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
 O God of my salvation,
 and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**
- 15 O Lord, open my lips,
 and my mouth will declare your praise.
- 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
 if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
- 17 **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
 a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Music: David Ogden

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and strong,
 Ho - ly and im - mor - tal, Havemer - cy on us. us.

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Reading from Karen Baker-Fletcher's Immanuel:
Womanist Reflections on Jesus as Dust and Spirit

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5. For thy church, that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
6. For thy - self, best Gift Di - vine, to the world so free - ly given,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies;
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light;
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight;
friends on earth and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild;
of - fer - ing up - on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth, and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.
* Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

*For Holy Communion

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

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REFLECTIONS ON ASH WEDNESDAY;

A conversation with Jeff Hunt and Eliza Tweedy

SERVICE OF THE SOIL

*The soil that you have collected and prepared in a bowl
is placed front and center in your worship space.*

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

All are invited to view the soil.

All are invited to smell the soil.

All are invited to touch the soil - to *feel* it.

Reading from Virgilio Elizondo's Galilean Journey

reflecting on the Mexican-American experience of Ash Wednesday

Silence for Reflection

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

[Luke 8:4-8](#)

Silence for Reflection

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray...

**Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp to our feet
and a light for our path,**

we recognize and confess

that we have failed to respond fully

to your gracious presence in our lives.

We know that you made us from the dirt of the Earth,

the adamah to which your breath gave life,

but often we act as though we were as gods ourselves.

We consider the dirt of our own origins

to be separate, base, unworthy

- a thing to be used and washed away.

Forgive us, merciful God.



**Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life,
fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you.
We confess that we are captive to sin,
that our sin binds us with false pride,
and that the wrong we do
is made worse by the good we leave undone.
Reconcile us to you and to all people.
God of mercy,
forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew
for life as you intend it;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether;
the past is finished and gone,
everything has become fresh and new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel”

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

With hands folded or placed together in front of the heart,
let us bow to one another as a sign of humility and peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Pg 895 United Methodist Hymnal)*

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 those who 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, forever.**

Amen



SENDING FORTH

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

the early Christians observed with great devotion
the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection,
and it became the custom of the Church
that before the Easter celebration
there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins
and had separated themselves from the community of faith
were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness,
and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

In this way the whole congregation was reminded
of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed
in the gospel of Jesus Christ
and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to observe a holy Lent:
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

21 God the Sculptor of the Mountains

1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er
2 God the nui-sance to the Phar - aoh, God the cleav-er
3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant-er
4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-

of the sand, God the jewel-er of the heav - ens,
of the sea, God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
of the wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,
ter-mined youth, God the ta - ble-turn-ing proph - et,

God the pot - ter of the land: you are
God the bea - con of the free: you are
God the source of all we eat: you are
God the res - ur - rect - ed truth: you are

womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form - less; shape us now.
fount of all de - liv - 'rance, we are sight - less; lead us now.
host at ev - ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.
pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.

Words: John Thornburg, 1954–
Music: Amanda Husburg, 1940–
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JENNINGS-HOUSTON

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DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.

Grant mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord
and to us sinners forgiveness,
and everlasting life and glory;
for, with the Creator and the Holy Spirit,
you are alive and reign, ***God***, now and for ever.

All Amen.

May the Almighty God,
who so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
bring you by faith to eternal life.

All Amen.

May Christ,
who accepted the cup of sacrifice
in obedience to his Abba's will,
keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who strengthens us to suffer with Christ
that we may share his glory,
set your minds on life and peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Assisting with Worship tonight:

Clergy: Rev. Eliza Tweedy, Rev. Jeff Hunt, Rev. Robert Lefebvre
Readers: Amy Weston, Linda Hamilton, Anni Devito, and Robert Molinaro
Technical Support: John and Alex Wilderman

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Looking Ahead

Readings for February 21, 2021

The First Sunday of Lent

[Genesis 9:8-17 / Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:9-15](#)

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