

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
March 17, 2024

PRELUDE

"Repentance from Four Prayers in Tone"

Richard Purvis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.


People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

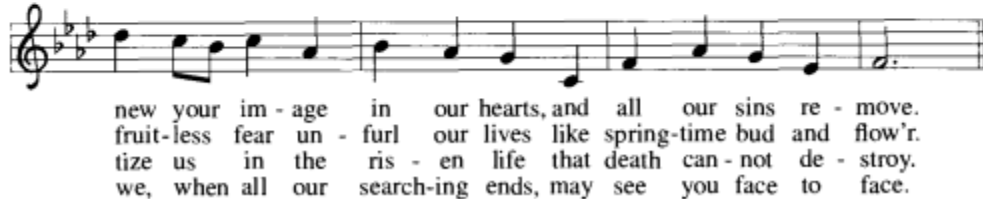
*We greet one another with signs and words of peace.*

\*SONG OF CENTERING

"Restore in Us, O God (vs. 1)



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

LENTEN CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader One: In this season of Lent, we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that though, the people of God, have forgotten the covenants God has made with us, God has established a new covenant within our hearts, one that can never be forgotten. We are baptized by water as John the Baptist baptized, but Jesus baptizes by the Holy Spirit and with fire. Fire purifies, cleans out the old, and

allows for new things to come, just as forest fires clean out the old, dead wood, and allow for new plants and life to flourish.

Reader Two: We light this candle on this fifth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness through the ashes that mark this season, that new life comes out of death. This covenant is written in our hearts, that we will all know the Lord, and we will be forgiven, cleansed from within, our sin remembered no more.

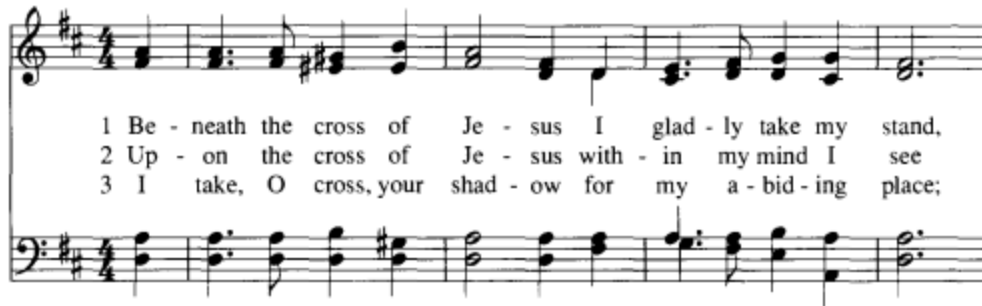
*(Light the fifth candle)*

Reader One: Let us pray: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that spring comes only after a long winter, that new life, eternal life, comes only after passing through death. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

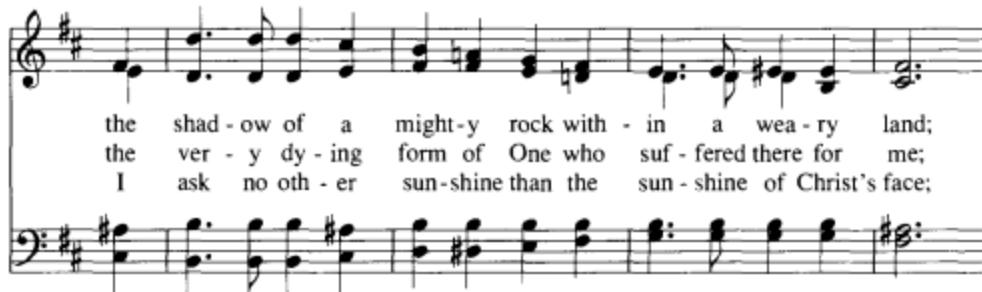
SONG OF GATHERING

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

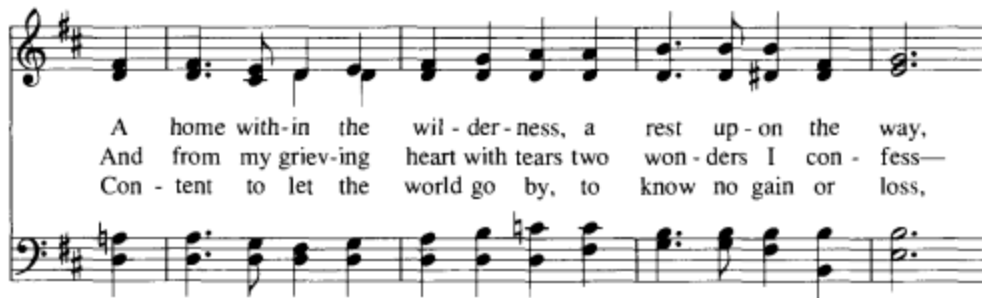
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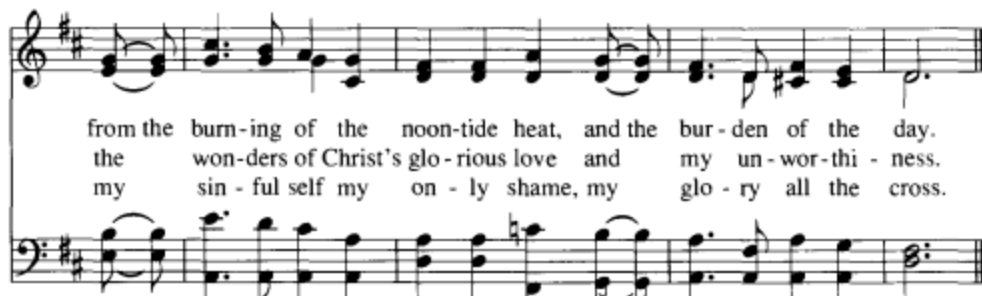
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;



A home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—  
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

*The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.*

First Reading

*Read by Liturgist*

## Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with

their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

## CHOIR ANTHEM

“Love the Lord”

Mark Schweizer

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession - Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

**ALL: Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled. We are weak in faith, strengthen us. We are cold in love, warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice! You are loved! AMEN.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them up to God!**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray....

## Words of Institution

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

## COMMUNION HYMN

"Eat this Bread"

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Eat this Bread". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

First system lyrics:  
"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Second system lyrics:  
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

### John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for

mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Sermon: “To Drive Out a Ruler”

Rev. Nathan Dannison

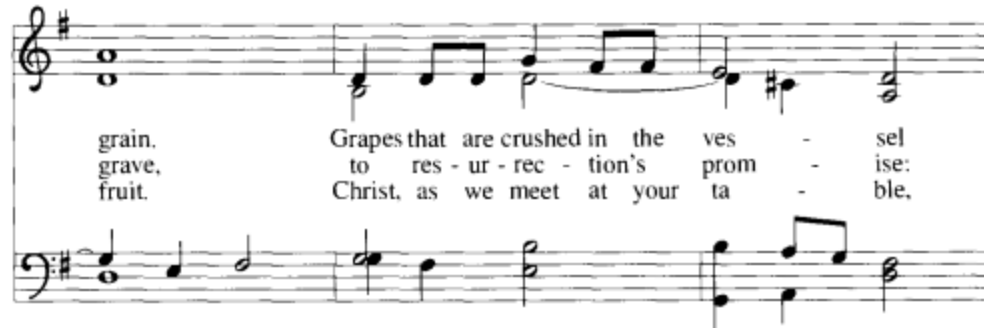
*The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the next hymn*

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Seed That in Earth is Dying”



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much

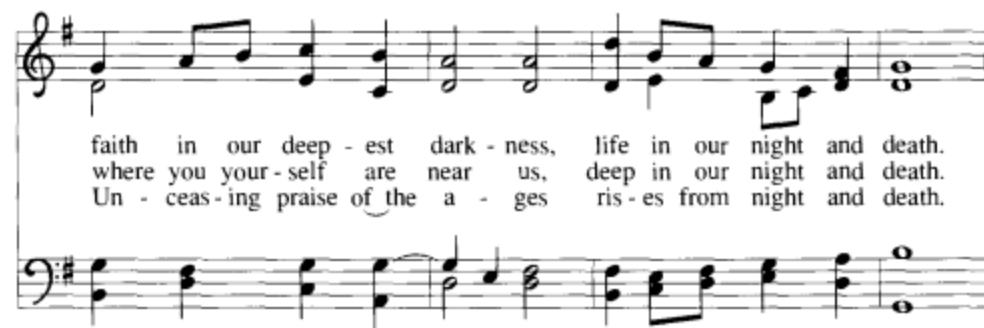


grain,  
 grave,  
 fruit.

Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pastor*

Pastor: ...We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,  
 Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and forever.  
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING *Pastor*

*Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Lenten Doxology



Praise the Source, who gives us life. Praise to Christ, who shares our strife.

Praise the Spir - it, who sus - tains, bear - ing us through grief and pain.

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty glo - ry, praise and hon - or be. A - men.

\*CHARGE *Liturgist*

Liturgist: Go out into the world  
and trust in the faithfulness of God.  
Speak truth. Embody compassion.  
Live simply. Love recklessly.  
Transform the world through the power of hope.

People: *We go in peace to love and serve God  
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

\*SONG OF PARTING  
“Lift High the Cross”

NCH #198

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim; Let

*Last time, end*

all a-dore and praise that sa-cred name.

*Stanzas, in harmony*

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod, the  
 2 Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied bears  
 3 O Christ, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, your  
 4 Set up your throne, that earth's de-spair may cease, be-  
 5 So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: praise

*to Refrain*

Lamb vic-to-rious, Christ the Child of God.  
 on the brow the seal of Christ who died.  
 death has brought us life e-ter-nal-ly.  
 neath the shad-ow of its heal-ing peace.  
 to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry.

\*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:  
 "Finale Jubilante"

Healey Willan