



Third Sunday in Lent Worship Gathering

March 20, 2022

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www.LCRonline.org

Ministers, People of LCR

Pastor, The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

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A Welcoming Community Making Christ Known Through Worship and Service

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

- ◆ **Breathe**
- ◆ **Ponder:** Whom did you bring with you on your heart today? For what or whom are you feeling thankful? What is making you anxious today? What do you need to confess today?
- ◆ **Be still,** empty your hands, empty your mind, let sounds pass you, wait upon God.

Gathering

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Congregational responses are indented and in bold.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who are thirsty.

Come, all who are seeking.

Come, all who are waiting.

Come, all who labor.

Come, all who need rest.

Come, all who dream dreams.

Come—

whether you're young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

This is God's house. All are welcome here. Let us worship holy God.

CONFESSON

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be. Friends, there is healing here. There is life to be gained here. So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

Holy God,

we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;
but you know this even better than we do.

Instead of trusting that we are made good,
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,
we stockpile our value in earthly things—

in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.
Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.

Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.
We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw. There is good news here. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way—we belong to God. Say it with me—

We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing. We are worthy of grace.

We belong to God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we would like to ask that you scoop us up.

Pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us awake like a first love. Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today. Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So we pray—scoop us up.

Catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention. We are here.

We long to be close to you. Amen.

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



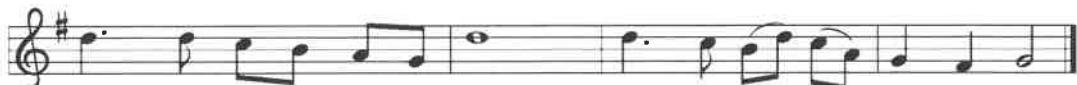
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Word

READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Thy Word (sung)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

and a light unto my path.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

A Reading from Luke the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in

this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

"Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou-sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe

that the God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.

We believe that God is planting roots.

We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.

But until that promised day

when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,
we believe:

when our work does not bear fruit,
God still loves us.
When our soil grows dry and cracked,
God still longs for us.
When all seems hopeless here on earth,
God holds hope for us.
The God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Receive our prayer.

Meal

OFFERING *The giving of our time, talents, and money to the work of Christ's Church is an act of worship. As God has blessed us, let us return thanks to Him.*

Take My Life, That I May Be

Verse 1

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God who knows us, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up. We wish that we could be more like you in that way. In a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking. In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling. In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating. We long for these things. So today we ask you—be with us on the hamster wheel. Be with us when compassion fatigue rears her head. Be with us when stress makes it hard to breathe. Be with us when self-doubt pushes in close. Be with us when exhaustion becomes constant or when loneliness becomes our primary language. Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us. Show us a life of expansive faith. Show us a life of overflowing joy. Show us a life of absorbing beauty. Show us a life of engrossing purpose. Show us a life that is as honest, and rich, and meaningful as the one Jesus led. And until that expansive and holy day, we will continue to gather at this Table. Until that day we will continue to look for you in our midst. So pour out a double portion of yourself onto this bread and cup so that we might catch a glimpse of your goodness. God, we are amazed by you. Your love never runs out, so bring that never-ending love here. Together we pray:

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 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 and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus has always been one to invite. He said, "Drop your nets and follow me." He said, "Let the little children come." He said, "Stand up from your mat, you are healed." Jesus has always been one to invite, and that has not changed. So friends, you are invited to this Table. Each and every one of us—with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions—we are invited to God's table. And here we will be met. Here we will be fed. Here we are given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy. So come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. This Table is for you.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ as he comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

BLESSING *All Stand*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Sending

BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world. May you laugh, and may it be contagious. May you overflow with love for those around you. May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy. And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself— go in peace, full to the brim.

Amen.

PRAYER LIST

Strength

Albert Burkhart
Astrid Grossmann
Karl Hurowitz
Marge Taylor
First Responders and Healthcare Workers

Serving in the Armed Forces

Bryan Bennett
Carmen Green
Nicole Hetzer
Jim Oliveto
Justin Ortega
Sean Hudgins
Jesse Fritz

Sister Congregation

Epiphany Bayamón