



February 17, 2021

Bush Hill, Calvary, Heritage, and Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Churches

SCENE ONE

Welcome and Call to Worship

Rev. M. Michelle Fincher

Lent is a time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us.

A time to let the events get up and walk around in us;

A time to intensify our living unto Christ;

A time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,

A time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem...

A time to ponder and a time to wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

Let us worship our God of light and life!

*from Ann Weems in *Kneeling in Jerusalem**

SCENE TWO

Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson

SCENE THREE

Opening Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

SCENE FOUR

Scripture 1 – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Rev. Dr. Barbara Heck

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nation. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Silent Prayer

SCENE FIVE

Scripture 2 – Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Dr. Bob Melone

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

SCENE SIX

Sung Prayer of Confession *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

Create in me a clean heart, O God;

create in me a clean heart, O God;

create in me a clean heart of God,

and renew a right spirit within me.

SCENE SEVEN

Scripture 3 – Matthew 3: 13-17

Rev. M. Michelle Fincher

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

SCENE EIGHT

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

SCENE NINE

Sung Response *We Are Forgiven*

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

SCENE TEN

Scripture 4 – Matthew 4:1-11

Rev. Dr. Rob Erickson

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,
 'One does not live by bread alone,
 but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

 'He will command his angels concerning you,'
 and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "away with you, Satan! For it is written,

 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SCENE ELEVEN

Assurance of God's Presence

Silent Reflection

SCENE TWELVE

Special Music *Sign Us with Ashes*

Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of dust, as to dust we return.
Sign us with ashes, merciful God. Mark us and make us your own.

SCENE THIRTEEN

Invitation to Lenten Observance

Rev. Dr. Barbara Heck

Signing of Ashes

SCENE FOURTEEN

Closing Hymn *Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. *Refrain*

Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness you requireth is to feel your need of him. *Refrain*

SCENE FIFTEEN

Benediction

Rev. Bob Melone