



Worship with Communion

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on March 14, 2021

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **Now Quit Your Care and Anxious Fear and Worry**

Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry;
for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain.

Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication; God brings new beauty nigh;
reply, reply, reply with love to Love most high;
reply, reply, reply with love to Love most high.

To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes,
or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal;
but to be led to where God's glory flashes, his beauty to come near.
Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear;
make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear.

For is not this the Fast that I have chosen?
(The prophet spoke) to shatter every yoke,
of wickedness the grievous bands to loosen, oppression put to flight,
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right;
to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right.

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). Music: QUITTEZ, PASTEURS, French Carol.

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

A time for personal reflection and confession

Celebrant We are easily seduced by the temptations all around us. But if we are willing to trust God and offer our confession, God is quick to forgive us and fill us with hope. Join me, as we pray together:

People We come before you, O God, your wayward children. We confess to you our love of worldly goods. We prefer to live by bread alone rather than your life-giving Word. We confess to you that we do not trust in your saving love. We test and question your presence in our lives. We do not see your angels that surround us. We confess to you that we worship worldly power and success. We ignore those in need. We believe that it is we, rather than you, who have charge over the world. Forgive us our sins and weakness and set us on the path toward health and wholeness that can be found only in you. May we worship and serve only you, now and forever. **AMEN!**

Celebrant As we walk this Lenten journey, we do so with the God of love. Our God accepts us when we turn away from sin and turn toward new life in God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may you grow in grace.

People **AMEN!**

♪ **If My People** *You may sing the first part or the echoed part*

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,)

I will heal, (I will heal,) **will heal their land.** (will heal their land.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,)

I will heal, I will heal their land.

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,)

come and heal, (come and heal,) **come heal our land.** (come heal our land.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,)

come and heal, come and heal our land.

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN!**

Old Testament

Reader A reading of Numbers chapter 21, verses 4 through 9.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 107, verses 1 through 3 and 17 through 22.

All **Give thanks to the Lord who is good, and whose mercy endures for ever. Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe. The Lord gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins. They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door. Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble, and you delivered them from their distress. You sent forth your word and healed them and saved them from the grave. Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy and the wonders you do for your children. Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

New Testament

Reader A reading of Ephesians chapter 2, verses 1 through 10.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 3. 14-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

A Lenten Litany for the Kingdom of God

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we have no voice. We refuse to believe that we are powerless; that we cannot make a difference in our neighborhoods, country, and world. We give up the idea that our vision of a better tomorrow must wait until we're older, richer, smarter, or more holy.

People **We will hear each other's voices and see each other's visions. We acknowledge that with God all things are possible. We will support each other in our efforts here and everywhere.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that war will always be a part of our world. We will not listen to those who lie to us when they say we must go to war to be safe. We refuse to believe that we must kill in order to bring democracy and freedom to others. We give up the idea that violence ever solves anything.

- People* **We will be honest with each other. We will not glorify weapons or violence, or righteous indignation. We will teach ways of peace and model ways of loving our enemies. We will seek out and support leaders who, like Christ, are willing to be mediators and peacemakers.**
- Reader* This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we are not responsible for our environment; that it has always been and will always be. We will stop taking our earth for granted and begin to hear her voice. We give up the idea that worship only happens indoors and behind stained glass. We will remember that our daily bread comes from God through a living, healthy planet and that we must care for her as she cares for us.
- People* **We will delight in the moon and stars, look for God in the waters, and hear the Spirit's voice in the winds. We will walk gently as we tend the earth together. We will try to reduce our impact on this planet and try to consume less. We will see all life as sacred and join together in preserving the earth.**
- Reader* This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we do not have a responsibility to act as healers through prayer, touch, and action. We give up the fear of disease, especially the fear that causes us to look away. We let go of the idea that illnesses like AIDS, malaria, or dysentery don't matter because they happen in other places. We refuse to believe that affordable healthcare must be only for some.
- People* **We will take on the role of healers, however we are best suited to do so. We'll help fund research to find cures and will support health education around the world. We will respond swiftly to natural disasters that threaten to bring new diseases to already battered people. When sickness occurs in our midst, be it physical, mental, or spiritual, we will not fear it. Through it all we will pray, touch, and be present together.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that poverty is something normal for some people in some places. We will not tolerate poverty in our world, or the thought that the poor don't matter. We will turn from seeing poverty as someone else's problem. We give up the idea that people who don't have enough stuff or the right stuff are any less worthy of hope.

People **We will work together to help end poverty. We will put our own relative wealth to work, bringing hope and change to those who need it most. We will model providing food, clothing, shelter, companionship, and care to those in need, be they in our neighborhood or our world. We will stop pretending that the poor are not among us and we will help each other find ways to respond compassionately to needs.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that hatred is ever okay. We refuse to believe people can be treated differently because they are a different color, speak a different language, live on the other side of a border, or have crossed a border. We will not allow unequal treatment of women, of gay and lesbian people, of transgendered people, of people with different abilities or intellect. We will not divide by education or employment, by social or economic status, by religion or politics. We dream of a world where all people, in all places, of all faiths can live and work together. We give up the idea that hatred, bigotry, intolerance, bullying, or lack of charity or kindness should ever be associated with God.

People **We will fight against injustice together for each other and for those who will come after us in this church and this world. We will not harbor hate in our own lives, and we will speak out when we hear intolerance of any kind, knowing that to remain silent is not an act of love. We will help build the Kingdom of God that Jesus was willing to die for.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we will seek and serve God together.

People **We will share the Kingdom of God with all. AMEN!**

♪ **Praise God Throughout These Forty Days**

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit who imparts

God's love in Christ into our hearts. AMEN!

Words: GW Dub Shepherd, 2006; General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church, Tune: *OLD 100TH*; Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader In this holy season of Lent, let us offer our prayers to God, who leads us through the wilderness. For the church, that in this season of repentance, it may turn from its own shortcomings to the transforming grace of God.

People God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.

- Reader* For our world, that the angels might still wait on those who wander among the beasts of poverty, hunger, and all oppression.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* For our nation and our leaders, that they may have the courage to guard the rights of the poor and the powerless.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* For those who suffer, that they may be blessed by our willingness to enter their wounds, with Christ; and that we may be blessed by their willingness to share them.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* For the place where we live, that we open ourselves to examine, with discipline, the places in our community still waiting to be illumined by the light of Christ.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* For our special concerns and hopes that, in their naming, we may know the certain presence of God with us.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* For all who have died, that they may rest completely and joyfully in you, O God, even as they join with you to lead us through the wilderness.
- People* **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**
- Reader* Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- All* **AMEN!**
- Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.
- All* **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**
- Celebrant* Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All AMEN!

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ The Glory of These Forty Days

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted & has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed,
who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th c.; tr Maurice F Bell. Music: *ERHALT UNS, HERR*, mel from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from

sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take... Eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN!**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **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. 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 for ever. AMEN!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

♪ We Will Take What You Offer

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We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your word; we will love one an -

- oth - er and be fed by you Lord. We will take what you of - fer, we will

live by your word; we will love one an - oth - er and be fed by you Lord.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN!

Blessing for Lent

Franciscan blessing

- Celebrant* May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships: so that you may live deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells. **AMEN!**
- Celebrant* May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people: so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. **AMEN!**
- Celebrant* May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war: so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy. **AMEN!**
- Celebrant* May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world and in your neighborhood: so that you will courageously move outside your comfort zone, empowered by Jesus Christ to accomplish God's purposes. **AMEN!**
- Celebrant* And the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and forever more. **AMEN!**

♪ Holy Spirit, Ever Living

Holy Spirit, ever living as the Church's very life;
 Holy Spirit, ever striving through us in a ceaseless strife;
 Holy Spirit, ever forming in the Church the mind of Christ;
 you we praise with endless worship for your fruits and gifts unpriced.
 Holy Spirit, ever working through the Church's ministry;
 teaching, strength'ning and absolving, setting captive sinners free;
 Holy Spirit, ever binding, age to age, and soul to soul,
 in a fellowship unending, you we worship and extol.

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Sending

- Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
- People* Thanks be to God!

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If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

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