

ST. JOHN'S WORSHIP

Sunday, March 14, 2021
St. John's Baptist Church | Charlotte, NC
Lent IV

Introduction to Worship

The Gift of Love
J. Kevin Gray

If you have eyes to see it, there are people hurting.
Some of these people live far away on the other side of the world.
Some live next to you.
What can we do individually?
What can we do together to bring healing and wholeness?
Do you have eyes that see and a heart that breaks?
Compassion creates holy space for good actions to come into being.

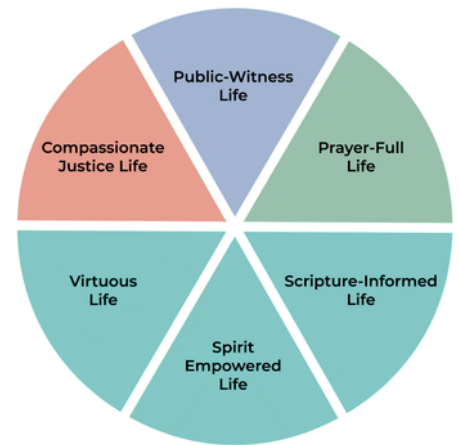
Greeting & Prayer of Submission

Rev. Lee Gray

Hymn of Praise

God Is Here
ABBOT'S LEIGH

God is here!
As we, your people, meet to offer praise and prayer.
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts,
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.



Reflection

Who do you see living as "sheep without a shepherd" today?

Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 9:35-38
Vija Chilton-Thompson, reader

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Song of Response
The Gift of Love
O WALY WALY

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

The Church at Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Rev. Allison Benfield

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song of Response
The Gift of Love
O WALY WALY

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Reading from the Epistle
1 Corinthians 13:1-7, 13
Dan Redding, reader

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This is the written word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Reflection
Why are you moved to respond to systemic injustice?



Solo

The Compassion Hymn

Maddie Minogue, soloist

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
For Your streams are forgiveness and the shade of Your rest

And with compassion for the hurting You reached out Your hand
As the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears
Heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near

Refrain: What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, oh God of compassion
Each day we live an offering of praise
As we show to the world Your compassion

We stood beneath the cross of Calvary and gazed on Your face
At the thorns of oppression and wounds of disgrace
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
As You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief

Refrain

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace
To the fields of injustice and the valleys of need
To be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
Of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ

Refrain

Message

Seeing More Than Crowds

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Song

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

Commissioning the Scattered Church

Dr. Foust

Postlude

"Prelude and Fugue in E Minor"

by J.S. Bach (BWV 555)

J. Noel Lance