



February 21, 2021
First Sunday of Lent

GATHERING		Heather Hinton
GREETING		Darren Cushman Wood
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Cory Unthank
PRELUDE	<i>Prelude on Thaxted</i>	D. Blackwell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, who will be your ark in the flood?

People: Jesus Christ, the guardian of our souls.

Leader: People of God, who will be your manna in the wilderness?

People: Jesus Christ, the bread of life.

Leader: People of God, who will be your guide through this season?

People: Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

OPENING HYMN #269

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.***

***And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.***

***Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 22:21-27

You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry; my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children orphans.

If you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them. If you take your neighbor's cloak in pawn, you shall restore it before the sun goes down; for it may be your neighbor's only clothing to use as cover; in what else shall that person sleep? And if your neighbor cries out to me, I will listen, for I am compassionate.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hearts open, minds awake, change us now for heaven's sake.
 Leave us not alone in hatred's wake. Show us how to love.
 Hearts open, souls awake, rules we made we now must break.
 With our very own lives at stake, we must learn to love.
 Eyes open, shocked awake, much to learn from our mistakes.
 Draw us closer in our heartache. Show us how to love.*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 38: 1-4, 11-22

Leader: O Lord, don't rebuke me in your anger
 or discipline me in your rage!

**People: Your arrows have struck deep,
 and your blows are crushing me.**

Leader: Because of your anger, my whole body is sick;
 my health is broken because of my sins.

**People: My guilt overwhelms me,
 it is a burden too heavy to bear.**

Leader: My loved ones and friends stay away, fearing my disease.
 Even my own family stands at a distance.

**People: Meanwhile, my enemies lay traps to kill me.
 Those who wish me harm make plans to ruin me.
 All day long they plan their treachery.**

Leader: But I am deaf to all their threats.
 I am silent before them as one who cannot speak.
 I choose to hear nothing,
 and I make no reply.

**People: For I am waiting for you, O Lord.
 You must answer for me, O Lord my God.**

Leader: I prayed, "Don't let my enemies gloat over me
 or rejoice at my downfall."
 I am on the verge of collapse,
 facing constant pain.

**People: But I confess my sins;
 I am deeply sorry for what I have done.**

Leader: I have many aggressive enemies;
 they hate me without reason.

**People: They repay me evil for good
 and oppose me for pursuing good.**

Leader: Do not abandon me, O Lord.
 Do not stand at a distance, my God.

**People: Come quickly to help me,
 O Lord my savior.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2225

Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother

***Who is my mother, who is my brother? All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
 Spirit-blown people, born from the Gospel sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.***

***Diff'rently abled, diff'rently labeled widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
 Crutches and stigmas, cultures' enigmas all come together round Jesus Christ.***

***Love will relate us color or status can't segregate us, round Jesus Christ:
Family failings, human derailings – all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.***

***Bound by one vision, met for one mission we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
Here is my mother, here is my brother, kindred in Spirit, round Jesus Christ.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus said,

“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick;
I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

Christ has come and Christ is calling.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**People: Lord of love, we confess that
we have ignored the cries of the needy
and criticized the shortcomings of our neighbors.
We have burned bridges of understanding
and built walls of prejudice.
Forgive our sins and reconcile us with another
to the glory of God our Creator. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news:

Jesus has broken down the dividing wall between us
and made in himself one new humanity,

making peace and putting to death our hostility through the cross.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE 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. Amen.**

LENTEN DOXOLOGY

***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.***

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 2:13-17

Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him. When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Good Power: The Power to Embrace

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #560

Help Us Accept Each Other

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.***

***Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Forty Days and Forty Nights

arr. C. Tambling

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Cory Unthank, *Minister of Youth & Young Adults*
John Hague, Dick Tiller-Luchtman & James Horton, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*
Chancel Quartet:
Kate Roberts, Amy Cuomo, Nathanael Hein & Ron Berry

Lenten "Good Power" Small Groups

Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Group - Mondays at 6 p.m.

Email asell@northchurchindy.com to join a group

The Synoptic Puzzle

Dr. Perry Kea Virtual Study

Sundays, Feb. 21-March 21

9:45-10:45 a.m.

For link email: asell@northchurchindy.com