



March 7, 2021
Third Sunday of Lent

GATHERING

Heather Hinton

GREETING

Darren Cushman Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amy Sell

PRELUDE

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

arr. J. Blersch

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us examine our ways and return to the Lord.

People: God has blessed us. Let all the ends of the earth revere the Lord.

OPENING HYMN #277

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;

things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:

scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,

and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;

words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 4:10-12

Upon my bed this is what I saw;
there was a tree at the center of the earth,
and its height was great.
The tree grew great and strong,
its top reached to heaven,
and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth.
Its foliage was beautiful,
its fruit abundant,
and it provided food for all.
The animals of the field found shade under it,
the birds of the air nested in its branches,
and from it all living beings were fed.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Call to Remembrance

R. Farrant

Psalm 25:6-7

Chancel Quartet

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy loving kindness which hath been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth: but according to thy mercy think thou on me,
O Lord, for thy goodness.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Psalm 32

Amy Sell

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

**People: Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

Leader: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**People: For day and night your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Leader: And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

**People: You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.**

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

**People: Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.**

Leader: Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.

**People: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

HYMN OF PRAYER #405

Seek Ye First

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Amen, amen.***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Amen, amen.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us prepare to enter God's realm of life and liberation by confessing our sins.

**People: Almighty God, whose powerful love never ceases to amaze us,
we confess that we planted our lives in a wasteland.
Forgive our arrogance that produced only
rigid thoughts and stubborn habits
that destroy our relationships and damage our souls.
Revive us with your love
and reorient us to your life-giving reign in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Leader: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN CAROL L WHARTON

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. Amen.***

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:26-32

Jesus also said, 'The realm of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, they do not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once they go in with the sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the realm of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Kingdom of God

Chancel Quartet

It is like the kingdom of God and a mystery.

The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed.

When it is sown in the earth, it is the smallest seed.

For when it is sown, it grows into the largest plant,
greater than all of the herbs, and grows into a tree. *Refrain*

It grows so birds can rest inside its crown of leaves,
deep in its shadows, away from any evil prey.

And so we can liken it to seeds which make a tree
larger than all of the trees from just the smallest seed. *Refrain*

SERMON

Good Power: The Power to Grow

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #2196

We Walk by Faith

***We walk by faith, and not by sight: No gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe him near.***

***Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:***

***That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are in full and endless sight.***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

POSTLUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

arr. D. Blackwell

The white carnation on the altar is in celebration of the life of Carol L Wharton who passed away March 1.

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

Senior Pastor

Amy Sell

Minister of Discipleship & Formation

John Hague & James Horton

Audio Visual

Mark Gilgallon

Director of Music

Heather Hinton

Organist

Chancel Quartet:

Kate Roberts, Amy Cuomo,

Nathanael Hein & Ron Berry

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

Palm Sunday Festival

Sunday, March 28, 3-5 p.m.

North Church Parking Lots

Donkeys, palm branch waving, hymn singing,
live music, and more.

Living in the COVID Era

Immunizations and COVID-19 Update video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo8RR4jFJ0c>