



February 26, 2023 – Livestream
First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Lenten Fantasia

J. Krug
Cathedral Ringers
Kelley & Jeff Warbinton, directors

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I appeal to you, kindred in Christ, by the mercies of God
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

People: This is our spiritual worship.

Leader: Come and cast all your cares on God

People: because God cares for us.

*OPENING HYMN #340

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 with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.***

***Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)***

***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 he requireth is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)***

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit
to be tempted in the wilderness:
Come quickly to help us
who are assaulted by many temptations;
and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us,
let each one find you mighty to save;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Kyrie
from *Blue Grass Mass*

C. Barnett
Chancel Quartet/Cathedral Singers

Mercy! Oh, Kyrie! Have mercy! Oh, Christe! Mercy! Eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison. (Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy.)
Have mercy on our souls! Have mercy on creation! Mercy!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Heidi Horton

FIRST LESSON

1 John 1:5-10

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light in whom there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as Christ himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #357

Just as I Am, Without One Plea

***Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

***Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy Sell

Leader: Since the early days
believers have observed the season of Lent with penance and self-denial.
In the name of our Great Redeemer,
I invite you to confess your sins before God and one another. Let us pray:

**People: Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
in communion with all the saints,
that we have sinned through our own fault
in thought, and word, and deed:
in what we have done**

and in what we have failed to do.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not loved one another as Christ has loved us.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit. Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives,
our self-indulgence and our exploitation of other people. Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We confess our preoccupation with worldly goods and comforts,
and our envy of others. Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We confess our blindness to human need and suffering,
our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
our misuse and pollution of creation,
and our lack of concern for the generations to come. Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We confess our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

PSALM 51

Sunil Kotian

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Amy Sell

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and keep us in life eternal.

People: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

**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.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2275

Kyrie

***Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sunil Kotian

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Go to Dark Gethsemane

J. Honore
Cathedral Ringers;
Kelley & Jeff Warbinton, directors

*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

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ³This 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."'

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But 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?' ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the axe 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.

¹¹'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. ¹²His 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.'

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Renewing Rituals, Part 1: Repenting Rituals

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #363

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

***And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?***

***'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore; let angel minds inquire no more.***

***He left his Father's throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),
emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!***

***Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee.***

***No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Love, How Deep

arr. C. Phillips

This week's worship leaders

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*
Sunil Kotian, *Pastor of Mission & Outreach*
Amy Sell, *Minister of Discipleship & Formation*
Brandon Wallace, *Minister of Youth and Young Adults*
Heidi Horton, *Liturgist*
James Horton and Eric Russell, *Audio Visual*
Mark Gilgallon, *Director of Music*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

Beginning Today, Women's Sunday School in Room 205 from 9:45-10:45am

Lenten Worship and Study Series:

"Renewing Rituals: How Holy Habits Can Enrich Your Life"

February 26 – March 26

Sign up now to be part of a small group at asell@northchurchindy.com

"Renewing Wednesdays"

Join us every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7pm in Lent for a light meal
and inspiring event beginning March 1 – Hymn Sing.

RSVP at events@northchurchindy.com

Youth Lenten Retreat at Teter Farm

Friday March 3- Sunday March 5; all students grades 6-12 welcome.

Children's Lenten Day Retreat

Saturday, March 4, 10am-2pm, kids 3 years old through 5th grade

Indianapolis Public School: Learn More About Our School District - March 5 - 4-5:30pm

Book Study - Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City - Matthew Desmond
March 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 6-7:30pm in North's conference room and on Zoom.

Extra Canonical Study with Perry Kea

Tuesdays March 7-28, 6-7:30pm, in person and virtual options