



March 19, 2023 – Livestream
Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Wallace

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. R. Henry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Leave behind your faults and failures.

People: Christ calls us to live again.

Leader: Leave behind your isolation and indifference.

People: Christ calls us to love again.

Leader: Leave behind your discouragement and disappointments.

People: Christ calls us to hope again.

*OPENING HYMN #2216

When We Are Called to Sing Your Praise

***When we are called to sing your praise with hearts so filled with pain
that we would rather sit and weep or stand up to complain,
remind us, God, you understand the burdens that we bear;
you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.***

***When we are called to sing your praise and cannot find our voice,
because our losses leave us now no reason to rejoice,
remind us, God, that you accept our sad laments in prayer;
you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair.***

***When we are called to sing your praise and life ahead looks grim,
still give us faith and hope enough to break forth in a hymn,
a thankful hymn, great God of Love, that you are everywhere;
you walk the shadowed way with us and keep us in your care.***

OPENING PRAYER

**O God,
author of life and conqueror of death,
give us grace, in the midst of so many losses,
to worship you and put our whole trust in your goodness,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Holy woman, graceful giver, prophet, servant, and believer, woman with the ointment jar,
 rose up near the time appointed, broke the seal, Christ's head anointed for the coming fatal hour.
 Like the vessel, we are broken; like the ointment we are token of God's loving unto death;
 like the woman, we are serving, like the scolders, ill deserving such a rich, forgiving faith.
 In these jars is hidden treasure, costly fragrance, Christly pleasure, like the Christ, first from the dead,
 broken for creation's wholeness, poured out for its coming fullness, Prophet, Servant, Hope, and Head.
 Holy woman, costly treasure, with the jar of alabaster, shows the hidden gift we are,
 therefore let us as Christ's servants hold our sister in remembrance, woman with the ointment jar.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #764

Psalm 31:1-16

Amy Sell

Leader: In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
 let me never be put to shame;
 in your righteousness deliver me.

**People: Incline your ear to me;
 rescue me speedily!
 Be a rock of refuge for me,
 a strong fortress to save me!**

Leader: You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
 for your name's sake lead me and guide me;

**People: take me out of the net which is hidden for me,
 for you are my refuge.**

Leader: Into your hand I commit my spirit;
 you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

**People: I hate those who pay regard to vain idols,
 but I trust in the Lord.**

Leader: I will rejoice and be glad in your steadfast love,
 because you have seen my affliction,
 and have taken heed of my adversities.

**People: You have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
 you have set my feet in a broad place.**

Leader: Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
 my eye is wasted from grief,
 my soul and body also.

**People: For my life is spent with sorrow
 and my years with sighing;
 my strength fails because of my misery,
 and my bones waste away.**

Leader: I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
 a horror to my neighbors,
 an object of dread to my acquaintances;
 those who see me in the street flee from me.

**People: I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
 I have become like a broken vessel.**

Leader: For I hear the whispering of many—
 terror all around!—
 as they scheme together against me,
 as they plot to take my life.

**People: But I trust in you, O Lord,
I say, "You are my God."**

Leader: My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

**People: Let your face shine on your servant;
save me through your steadfast love!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Debbie Hinderliter Lewis

FIRST LESSON

Lamentations 2:10-13

¹⁰The elders of daughter Zion
sit on the ground in silence;
they have sprinkled dust on their heads
and put on sackcloth.

The young women of Jerusalem
have bowed their heads to the ground.

¹¹My eyes fail from weeping,
I am in torment within;
my heart is poured out on the ground
because my people are destroyed,
because children and infants faint
in the streets of the city.

¹²They say to their mothers,
"Where is bread and wine?"
as they faint like the wounded
in the streets of the city,
as their lives ebb away
in their mothers' arms.

¹³What can I say for you?
With what can I compare you,
Daughter Jerusalem?
To what can I liken you,
that I may comfort you,
Virgin Daughter Zion?

Your wound is as deep as the sea.
Who can heal you?

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

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #528

Nearer, My God, to Thee

***Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!***

***Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down, darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!***

***There let the way appear, steps unto heaven; all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!***

*Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise, out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

*Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky, sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sunil Kotian

Leader: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
Therefore, let us renounce our sins and receive God's grace.

**People: Tender God,
we have not trusted you with our whole hearts.
Our grief is too great to cover up,
our doubts are too deep to overcome,
and our sins are too heavy to bear.
Forgive us for refusing your grace and relying on our strength.
Send your Spirit of healing and make us whole,
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Shepherd of our souls. Amen.**

Leader: May these words of assurance drown out your doubts
and overwhelm your guilt with the peace of our blessed Savior:

Hear the Good News: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

If we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As far as the east is from the west,
so Christ removes our sins and sets us free.

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting.
Therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ....we are forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! 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

Amy Sell

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Broken and Spilled Out

arr. M. Hayes

Chancel Quartet/Cathedral Singers

One day a plain village woman driven by love for her Lord,
recklessly poured out a costly essence disregarding the scorn.
And once it was broken and spilled out a fragrance filled all the room,
like a prisoner released from his shackles, like a spirit set free from the tomb.
Broken and spilled out just for love of you,
Jesus, my own precious treasure, lavished on Thee;
broken and spilled out, and poured at Your feet in sweet abandon,
let me be spilled out and used up for Thee.

Lord, you were God's precious treasure, his loved and his own perfect Son,
sent here to show me the love of your father; yes, just for love it was done.
And though you were perfect and holy, you gave up Yourself willingly;
you spared no expense for my pardon, you were used up and wasted for me!
You were broken and spilled out just for love of me, Jesus:
God's most precious treasure, lavished on me;
you were broken and spilled out and poured at my feet
in sweet abandon, Lord, you were spilled out and used up for me.

*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 26:6-13

⁶ Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Renewing Rituals, Part 4: Mourning Rituals

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #700

Abide with Me

***Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

***Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.***

***I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.***

***I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.***

***Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Forty Days and Forty Nights

arr. C. Tambling

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and
in memory of my father, Paul Benedict, by Katherine Benedict.*

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 & Young Adults*
Debbie Hinderliter Lewis, *Liturgist*
John Hague, James Horton, Allen McCormack, *Audio Visual*
Heather Hinton, *Organist*

Upcoming Events

“Renewing Wednesdays”

Join us in Lent every Wednesday, 5:30 – 7pm, light meal included
March 22—Meditation and prayer (sponsored by the Discipleship and Formation Team)

Spring Break Family Fun Day

Friday, March 31, 10am-2pm, Education Wing

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1, North’s Parking Lot

Indy Fuel Game

Sunday, April 2, 5pm, Indiana Farmers Coliseum

Palm Sunday Parade, Sunday, April 2, 10:30am, gather at Peace Pole

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:30p in the Chapel

Good Friday, April 7, Noon in the Chapel and 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

The Great Sneaker Recycling Event!

Sunday, April 23 – Sunday, April 30

Bring your TENNIS SHOES and put them in the grey bin