



March 3, 2024 – Livestream
Third Sunday of Lent

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunil Kotian

PRELUDE

Prelude on King's Lynn

C. Phillips

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Does not wisdom call us?

She raises her voice on the heights, by the wayside, at the crossroads.

People: Reverence for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the way of the living.

*OPENING HYMN #451

Be Thou My Vision

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Living in the Light

R.E. Schram

Denise Page-Caraher; Rosie Jordan, directors; Jim Caraher, piano

Living in the light of Jesus, I will live in the light,

He will lead me step by step, and I will do what's right,

I will follow him and leave the darkness behind.

I will live in the light.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,

and all the twinkling starry host:

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels heaven can boast. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say, "The wisdom of the wise will pass away, and the intelligence of the intelligent will disappear."

²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God wisely saw to it that the world would never know God through

human wisdom, the Lord has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. ²² It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. ²³ So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it is nonsense.

²⁴ But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Agnus Dei
Sung in Latin

K. Shaw

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 7:24-29

²⁴ "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

²⁸ Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Who Do You Say That I Am (Part 3): Jesus the Sage

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN #454

Open My Eyes, That I May See

***Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

***Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

***Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Amy Sell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: God's mercy endures forever.

Leader: May God, who enlightens every heart,
help you to confess your sins and trust in God's mercy.

**People: Most merciful God, have mercy upon me,
in your compassion forgive my sins,
both known and unknown,
things done and left undone.
O God, uphold me by your Spirit
that I may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Leader: Our Sovereign Savior Jesus,
took on our sins so that we can be free, was wounded so we can be made whole,
died so we can live, and lives so we can have new and everlasting life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Amen.

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,

People: and whose sin is put away.

Leader: The Lord has put away all your sins.

People: Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sunil Kotian

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Trisagion & O Lamb of God

A. Fedak

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One, have cry upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

*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.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sunil Kotian

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God...

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ....
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and cup....
All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

*BREAKING THE BREAD

RECEIVING THE BLESSING

As persons are sharing the bread and cup in the sanctuary, extend your hands to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to receive communion from today's service please contact the church to schedule for a pastor to bring it to your home this week, nricketts@northchurchindy.com

COMMUNION HYMNS

#2160

Into My Heart

***Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart, Lord Jesus.***

***Out of my heart, out of my heart, shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;
shine out today, shine out always; shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.***

#500

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

***Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
and make me love thee as I ought to love.***

***I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.***

***Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling.
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!***

***Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.***

v. 1-4

PRAYER

***Teach me to love thee as thine angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame;
the kindling of the heaven-descended Dove,
my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.***

*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

Darren Cushman Wood

POSTLUDE

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

arr. D. Blackwell

Throughout Lent, the Justice and Advocacy Team invites us to pray for peace around the world. The olive tree on the altar is a visual prayer for peace. After each service, you are invited to kneel or stand at the altar and offer your prayers for peace.

This week, we offer prayers for the cessation of violence in our streets. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/57zfecry> to read and respond to the UM Justice Action Alert on Gun Violence.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays During Lent
Communion in the Chapel, 7:30am
Renewing Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm
March 6: Games
Light dinner, fellowship, and shared experience
March 14, Young Adult Dinner, 6:00pm
March 15, Indy Fuel Game, 7:00pm

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood
Senior Pastor
Sunil Kotian
Pastor of Mission & Outreach
Amy Sell
Minister of Discipleship & Formation
John Hague, Allen McCormack
and James Horton
Audio Visual
Mark Gilgallon
Music Director
Heather Hinton
Organist