



March 17, 2024 – Livestream  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darren Cushman Wood

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

Mid North Shepherd Center

Sara Case

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Two Irish Hymn Tunes - *Kingsfold* and *Slane*

arr J. Galway  
Emily Justice, flute

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sunil Kotian

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**People: full of grace and truth.**

Leader: We have beheld his glory.

**People: From his fullness we have received grace upon grace.**

\*OPENING HYMN #179

*O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

*O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,  
and of the news that came to them from angels in the air.  
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today;  
of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing always.*

*O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;  
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless Boy.  
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow;  
now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.*

*O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,  
of him who walked upon the sea and bade the waves be still.  
For though like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,  
when faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.*

*O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,  
of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.  
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,  
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.*

OPENING PRAYER

In the life and love of Jesus, O God,  
you became one of us,  
so that we may become one with you.  
Through your Spirit,

**restore your image in us and renew our lives  
that we may protect and celebrate  
the beauty and goodness of all people.  
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Behold the Lamb of God  
from Messiah*

G.F. Handel

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #854

Psalm 139:1-18

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

Leader: You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**People: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,  
you know it altogether.**

Leader: You pursue me behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

**People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high, I cannot attain it.**

Leader: Whither shall I go from your spirit?

**People: Or whither shall I flee from your presence?**

Leader: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**People: If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.**

Leader: If I say, "Let only darkness cover me,  
and the light around me be night,"

**People: even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.**

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts;

**People: you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

Leader: I praise you, for I am fearful and wonderful.

**People: Wonderful are your works!**

Leader: You know me very well;

**People: my frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Leader: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;

**People: in your book were written  
the days that were formed for me,  
every day, before they came into being.**

Leader: How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

**People: I try to count them, they are more than the sand.  
When I awake, I am still with you.**

## FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup> Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of death, that is the devil. <sup>15</sup> Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

<sup>16</sup> We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful high priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN OF PRAYER #475

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

***Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.***

***O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.***

***And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.***

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amy Sell

Leader: With confidence in the mercy of Jesus the Messiah,  
let us confess our sin before God:

**People: Compassionate God,  
whose love never fails us,  
we confess the harm we have done  
and the good we have left undone;  
our passion for pleasing ourselves  
and our apathy for loving others;  
our empty chatter and our silent refusal  
to share your Good News.  
Forgive our sins,  
remove our guilt,  
and fill us with holy joy  
so that the world will see only Jesus in us. Amen.**

Leader: We have a Savior who was tested in every way  
so that he can lead us out of the destruction of sin  
and into the new life of the Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**People: 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 #482

*Lord, Have Mercy*

***Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Lamb of God*

T. Paris/arr. C. Courtney  
Emily Justice, flute

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God. Your gift of love they crucified. They laughed and scorned Him as He died. The humble King they named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.

O wash me in Your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side to be led by Your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God. O wash me in Your precious blood 'till I am just a lamb of God.

\*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 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named

him Jesus.

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 5: Jesus the Representative*

Darren Cushman Wood

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #2166

*Christ Beside Me*

***Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me—King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me—never to part.***

***Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me—shield in the strife;  
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising—light of my life.***

***Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me—King of my heart;  
Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me—never to part.***

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Postlude on *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

R. G. te Velde

On Apr 28, the North Church Youth will be participating in TreePlenish 2024 to plant trees all over Indy as part of our Creation Care mission focus this year. Our goal is to plant 100 trees, which will offset the energy consumption of North for one year. There are 3 sapling types available, and it is no cost to you! We will even help plant the tree if you're within the Indy surrounding area. Just follow the QR code to order a sapling now, and share with your family and friends, too! If you're interested in helping us plant the saplings, you can use the same QR code. Signups will run until March 28.



Learn More



<http://tinyurl.com/yc2kt8mc>

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 ongoing peace and reconciliation work in Northern Ireland. The QR code will help you learn more about the Corrymeela Community and its work of peace in Northern Ireland.

## Upcoming Events

Wednesdays During Lent

Communion in the Chapel, 7:30am

Renewing Wednesdays, 5:30-7:30pm

March 20: local mission items packing

Light dinner, fellowship, and shared experience

March 17, The Magic of Healing, 1:00-3:00pm

March 26, Spring Break Family Fun Day, 10:00am-2:00pm

March 26, Lydia Circle, 7:00pm

April 2, LGBTQ+ Fellowship Gathering at The Garage Food Hall, 6:00pm

## This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

*Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian

*Pastor of Mission & Outreach*

Amy Sell

*Minister of Discipleship &*

*Formation*

Jacqueline Blackwell Leonard

*Liturgist*

John Hague and James Horton

*Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon

*Music Director*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*