

Midweek Lenten Service

March 22, 2023

7:00 PM Worship

We are so glad you are here with us this evening. We pray that you will meet God in worship and that your faith will be strengthened as you prepare to go out into the world in the coming week.



+ WE GATHER TO WORSHIP +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Gaelic Legend - T. Frederick H. Candlyn

Please rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greetings to you in the name of God, the Beginning of Our Wonder,
Jesus, the Answer to Our Imperfection, and
the Holy Spirit, the Response to Our Great Longing.

And also with you.

At each Lenten midweek worship service, we're going to relax into conversation.

We want to talk to one another.

And we want to dialogue with God.

So turn to the person closest to you.

Welcome each other to worship through this question.

What burdens do you carry today?

This sharing time will conclude when the hymn is introduced.

HYMN ELW 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

GREETING

Why are we here?

To seek the God who loves us.

What do we hope to find?

**A welcoming friend,
a gentle stranger,
a place for our questions,
and a home for our hopes.**

God be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD - excerpts from John, chapter 9

HOMILY

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN We Come With Questions

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Erneuernten Gesangbuch (1665)



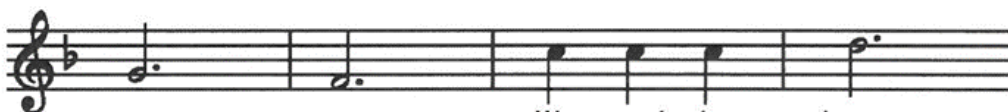
We come with ques - tions as - sum - ing that
Here is the mys - t'ry we claim as the
God help us live in - to mys - t'ry be -



there will be an - swers Set - ting the
fol-lowers of Je - sus: Christ has died,
- yond com - pre - hen - sion Qui - et our



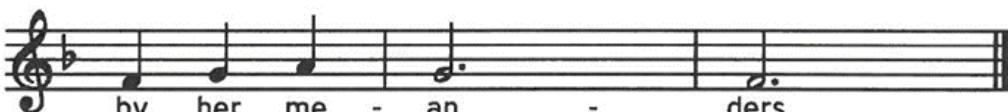
world in an or - der that o - bes our
Christ is raised, Christ dai - ly comes to re -
minds al-ways clam - or - ing for some di -



gram - mar We want to know
- deem us Grace free, not earned,
- rec - tion Give us your peace



where Spir - it's riv - er will flow Frus - trat - ed
whe - ther or not we de - serve God works be -
with all that we can't per - ceive Hold - ing us



by her me - an - ders
- yond rules and boun - d'ries
with - in the ten - sion

Please be seated.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING Healer of our every ill - Marty Haugen
St. John's choir

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. We can offer you so much more than our money, or our bread, our hands,
or our days.

**We can give you our uncertainty; we can offer you our wonder. We can sacrifice
our need to be right or perfect or strong. We can set aside our hungry obsessions,
for we are your possession. In your name, we pray. Amen**

PRAYER

Prayer is our dialogue with God,
our holy conversation
with the one who loves us most.

Please pray with me
for the state of this world,
for the place where we live,
for the people we know,
and those we should know better,
and for all the weight
we carry in this place.

God, hear us as we pray:
Where are you in this world today?

We pray for this city
and this country.
We pray for every place
where hideous violence
and clever lies
and shameless neglect
have scarred your lovely creation

and wounded our nations.
We pray so we might
partner with your goodness
to bring healing
to our neighborhood.

God, hear us as we pray:
Who feels lonely without you today?

We think of those we know
who no longer believe in you,
or have never easily walked
the path of belief.
We hold them
in our prayers now.

We pray in silence.

God, please reach them,
even when we cannot.

God, hear us as we pray:
Who feels lonely without us today?

We know we are far
from some people we love,
and we do not always know
how to cross the distance.
We name these people
before you now.

We pray silently or aloud.

Give us curiosity,
wonder,
love,
and courage
to reach those who
only seem far away.

God, hear us as we pray:
How can I release my concerns today?

We fear asking
our largest questions,
but you already know the answers.
We fear facing
a question from you,
but you never mean us harm.

We breathe deeply,
because your Spirit is breath.
And we give our concerns to you.
We know you are with us.
And we know how to pray,
for you have taught us.

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 and ever. Amen.

SENDING

Now go from this place to serve Jesus, the eye-opening God.

As you follow Jesus, you will encounter illness and suffering.
You will wonder why God's blessings seem so unevenly spread across humanity.

Yet Jesus still reveals God's work through us.

Why do we struggle to believe?

What will happen when you ask God to do the unexpected?

Take these questions with you
so that your faith may grow and be challenged on this Lenten journey.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ELW 779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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Assisting with worship tonight:

Pastor Russ Crouthamel, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pennsburg

Pastor Nick Pence, Palm Schwenkfelder Church, Palm

Pastor David Williams, New Goshenhoppen UCC Church, East Greenville

We welcome all to worship tonight, including those who join with us from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Red Hill, Pennsburg UCC Church, Pennsburg and Friedens UCC Church, Sumneytown.

Our final mid-week Lenten worship service will be next Wednesday, March 29 at 7 PM at New Goshenhoppen UCC where we will consider Question as Kick: Limit Questions. We hope you'll join us!

<p>There will be a reception following the service in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!</p>



*Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love*

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