



First Sunday in Lent

WHITNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
February 21, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Christina Thompson

WELCOME

Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. For all your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. (From Psalm 25)

We are beginning a Lenten journey, seeking to know and walk the path of the Lord. This Lenten journey will guide us from today, all the way to Holy Week and then through Easter.

As we start this path, we will recognize and name those things that tempt us on this path and ponder who joins us to help us through. I am so grateful that you have joined us on this journey.

LIGHTING CANDLE

We need light for any journey. So, as we begin walking this path with God, I invite you to light your candle knowing that the light of Christ will guide our way.

WHERE WE ARE STARTING FROM

The season of Lent is the 40 days, not counting Sundays that prepare us for Easter. Lent gives us the space and time to ponder who we are, who God is and our relationship with God. So, during worship in this season, we will be offered the space to look at where we are starting from, to be reminded of who God is as we move to where God wants us to be.

TIME OF CENTERING

Covenant God, remember us.

Covenant God, teach us your path

Covenant God, make us to know your truth.

CONFESSION

O Covenant God, as we begin another Lenten season, we acknowledge where we are starting from. Some of us are so tired, we barely made it to this worship service. Some of us are right now, still trying to find the matches to light our candle. Some are not sure what Lent even is. Some of us are ready to begin this journey, although with a bit of hesitation.

Help us in this holy time of worship to recognize our own human condition. Help us to be honest about the things that tempt us on our life path and how easy it is to follow the shiny, glittery easy things that are not of you. Forgive us for the ways we have not lived according to your ways, for the ways that we have condoned violence, racism, injustice, by not standing up say it is wrong.

Forgive us, we pray when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Forgive us when we forget the covenant you have called us to—to love you with all we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves. According to your steadfast love we pray, Amen.

I invite you in this moment of silence to acknowledge your sins and to name where you are starting this journey from.

TIME OF SILENCE

EXPLORING WHO GOD IS

The journey of Lent allows us the time to explore who God is. Our opening song, Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days helps us to see who Jesus is and how Jesus helps us through these 40 days of Lent.

OPENING SONG

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days #269 all verses

CCLI Song # 2312509 Annabel Morris Buchanan | Charles H. Webb | Claudia Frances Ibotson Hernaman
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Verse 1

Lord who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins
And close by Thee to stay

Verse 2

As Thou with Satan didst contend
And didst the victory win
O give us strength in Thee to fight
In Thee to conquer sin

Verse 3

As Thou didst hunger bear and thirst
So teach us gracious Lord
To die to self and chiefly live
By Thy most holy word

Verse 4

And through these days of penitence
And through Thy Passiontide
Yea evermore in life and death
Jesus with us abide

Verse 5

Abide with us that so this life
Of suffering over past
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Kimberly Gardner

Liturgist this morning is Jack Bynum

PASTORAL PRAYER

Beloved friends, in this season of repentance and healing,
we accept God's invitation to be ever mindful of the needs of others,
offering our prayers on behalf of God's community in the church and
the world.

We pray for the people of this congregation...

For those who suffer and those in trouble...

For the concerns of our local community...

For our nation and the world, its peoples, and its leaders...

For the Church universal –its leaders, its members, and its mission...

For the concerns that we lift to you only in the quiet of our hearts...

Fill us with your strength
to resist the seductions of our foolish desires
and the tempter's vain delights,
that we may walk in obedience and righteousness,
rejoicing in you with an upright heart.
In Jesus holy name we pray **Amen.**

(Prayer from Vanderbilt Revised Lectionary Website)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jack Bynum

Gracious God,
in rushing waters and in dry wilderness,
in every season and circumstance,
we need your sustaining word.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
proclaim the good news among us today
so, that we may repent and believe
and see anew how the time is fulfilled
and the kingdom has come near;
in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev Dewey Knowles

SERMON

Rev Christina

Walking the Path with God even Through Temptation

APPLICATION

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Where are we starting on this journey?

What tempts us?

Who joins us for this journey?

[Lenten Reflection: Anywhere Else](#)

I just realized
That in my imagination
The wilderness is always somewhere else;
a foreign landscape I actively have to enter
in the act of being faithful
truthfully,
the wilderness is always where I am
right now
and faith is the courage to stay with it
when I'd rather pretend, I am
anywhere else.

Written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space]. <http://holdthisspace.org.au/>

OFFERING

Because we believe that in Jesus Christ, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond in tangible ways.

By doing acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel. The offering is received in gratitude to God.

The ways to give to the church are listed there on your screen. You can mail a check to the church or give electronically through our website. Let us now pray of the offerings that will be collected.

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways.

Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation.

We pray in Jesus Christ. **Amen**

DOXOLOGY

Andy and Svetlana Maddox

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow – UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost **Amen**

May all along our pilgrim journey, may we walk close to God.

CLOSING SONG

Andy & Svetlana Maddox

Close to Thee #407

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Verse 1

Thou my everlasting portion
More than friend or life to me
All along my pilgrim journey
Savior let me walk with Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
All along my pilgrim journey
Savior let me walk with Thee

Verse 2

Not for ease or worldly pleasure
Nor for fame my prayer shall be
Gladly will I toil and suffer
Only let me walk with Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
Gladly will I toil and suffer
Only let me walk with Thee

Verse 3

Lead me through the vale of shadows
Bear me o'er life's fitful sea
Then the gate of life eternal
May I enter Lord with Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
Close to Thee close to Thee
Then the gate of life eternal
May I enter Lord with Thee

GOING OUT TO APPLY THIS SENDING FORTH

May the God of covenant faithfulness enfold you;
The beloved Son encourage you;
And the Holy Spirit descend upon you in blessing;
This day and forever.

PASSING THE PEACE

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

INVITATION TO NEXT WEEK

I invite you to join us next week on the 2nd Sunday of Lent as we continue walking this path with God---looking at taking up our cross.

After worship, you are invited to join us for fellowship time on Zoom. The link to join us is in the email you received with the links to this service. There are also instructions on this screen. We will gather about 10:45.

You are also invited to join us on our Facebook Group Whitney United Methodist Church group to chat about the service. You can join the conversation anytime.

Our radio program, Reach Out and Trust broadcasts on KBXL 94.1 FM on Sunday mornings at 7:30 am and 11:30 am.

May God be with us until we meet again.