



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

At the coming of spring,
the earth is warming, the birdsong increases,
the sweeter breezes brush our cheeks,
and the earth holds hope in its seeds and
buds.

**We gather this morning,
with joyful noise, with warm hearts,
and with hopeful spirits,
for we are one with the renewal of the earth
and blessedly held in the love of God
and one another.**

HYMN #250 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

This is a beautiful prayer of praise and petition from St. Anselm (1033-1109). It is especially appropriate for Lenten worship because it incorporates Luke 13:31-35, where Jesus weeps over Jerusalem.

**Jesus, as a mother
you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us
as a mother with her children.
You weep over our sins and our pride;
tenderly you draw us
from enmity and judgement.**

**You comfort us in sorrow
and bind up our wounds;
in sickness you nurse us,
and with pure spiritual milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor
we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope
through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness
we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead;
your touch makes the sick whole.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your compassion
bring grace and forgiveness;
for the beauty of heaven
may your love prepare us.**

RESPONSE #434 *Restore in Us, O God*

CALL TO CONFESSION—from Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

In the strength of this assurance, let us bring our confession to God:

Lenten Prayer of Confession and Reflection
Jesus, shepherd of our growth, just as the endurance of winter produces a hardiness within us and a greater appreciation for spring, so does perseverance through uncertainty and trouble cause a strengthening of faith, a growth of spiritual courage, and greater compassion for others.

Forgive our resistance to life's realities, and our reluctance to grow and trust that you are with us always, to guide and teach.

We thank you, God, for times of trouble and uncertainty. Had our journey been carefree, we might not know the fullness of your love.

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 43:1-5

*Thus says the Lord,
the One who created you,
the God who formed you:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
for I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One, your Savior.
Do not fear, for I am with you.*

The God who redeemed you is the God who is always with you, blessing, guiding, forgiving, and leading. Be at peace, love your neighbor, and work for the reconciliation of the world as you follow Jesus in the Way.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 56 and Luke 13:31-35

MESSAGE What Jesus Wants

HYMN #737 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN #450 *Be Thou My Vision*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

