



Service of Worship    March 30, 2025    9:30am  
Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow. So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Elegy”  
Charter Ringers

by William Payne

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Loving God, as we worship you today,

**ALL: we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving.**

ONE: In a world that does not understand repentance,

**ALL: We pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus.**

\*HYMN

“Lord, What Must I Do?”

LYONS

**“Lord, what must I do?” A man asked one day.  
The kingdom of God still seemed far away.**

**Christ spoke with compassion, “Just do one thing more;  
Sell all your possessions, and give to the poor ... “**

**The man was upset and started to grieve;  
Did he even hear what he would receive?  
For Jesus continued, “ ... Then come, follow me,  
And you will have treasure in heaven! You'll see!”**

**O Lord, we have much and so we confess  
Wealth gets in the way; possessions possess!  
Our money distorts how we hear your good news;  
It changes our vision, obscuring our views.**

**O Lord, may we have the courage today  
To get rid of all that gets in your way;  
And may the impossible now be found true:  
By grace, we are blest and find treasure in you.**

Biblical References: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

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## **A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN                      Noisy Offering**

*(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Emily Nelson Dixon

Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses. In every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins to Almighty God.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)***

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have**

**mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 432

"How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord"

REPTON

# How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)  
 Eb Bb Cm Ab Eb Bb Eb

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:  
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth-er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F#m) (Bm) (G) (Em)  
 Ab Fm Bb Gm Cm Ab Fm

to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -  
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -  
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your  
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7) (B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)  
 Bb7 Eb Bb7 C Fm Ab Bb7 Eb

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.  
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.  
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 13:13–23

Dave Pack

Those who despise a word bring destruction on themselves,  
but those who respect a command will be rewarded.  
The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,  
so that one may avoid the snares of death.  
Good sense wins favor,  
but the way of the faithless is their ruin.  
The clever do all things intelligently,  
but the fool displays folly.  
A bad messenger brings trouble,  
but a faithful envoy, healing.  
Poverty and disgrace are for the one who ignores instruction,  
but one who heeds reproof is honored.  
A desire realized is sweet to the soul,  
but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.  
Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,  
but the companion of fools suffers harm.  
Misfortune pursues sinners,  
but prosperity rewards the righteous.  
The good leave an inheritance to their children's children,  
but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.  
The field of the poor may yield much food,  
but it is swept away through injustice.

### ANTHEM

“Laudate Dominum”

Mozart

Beth Lillian, soloist and Chancel Choir

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 18:18–30 (NRSVue)

A certain ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.’” He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” He replied, “What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.”

Then Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not get back very much more in this age and in the age to come eternal life."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Let It Go"

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

"Andantino"  
Linda Dover, organist

by Eugene Gigout

Sending

\*HYMN

"One Day as Jesus Was Traveling Through"  
("Be Thou My Vision")

SLANE

**One day as Jesus was traveling through,  
There came a rich man a-traveling, too.  
One sought inheritance, one faced the cross;  
Where was the profit and where was the loss?**

**"What can I do now to gain one more thing?"  
So asked the rich man who lived like a king.  
Jesus said kindly, "There's one thing you lack:  
Sell, give and follow—there's no turning back."**

**"Sell, give and follow?" The man was afraid.  
"How can I give up the wealth I have made?"**

**I live a good life! I cannot let go!  
Sell, give and follow? I'll have to say, 'No!'"**

**How can a camel fit through a small place?  
How can disciples be saved, but by grace?  
How can the wealthy find joy, but to give?  
God, in your kingdom—by dying, we live.**

**Christ, you have shown us the way of the cross;  
You give a gift that the world sees as loss.  
May we let go of the things we hold dear;  
Then, serving others, we'll find your life here.**

Biblical References: Mark 10:17-31; Matthew 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30  
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**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Karen Wright

**POSTLUDE**

**"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"**  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. by David Lowe

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

## **GOD'S PEACE TO YOU**

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11100 College Boulevard ♦ Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone (913) 345-1256 ♦ [www.gcpc.org](http://www.gcpc.org)