





Service of Worship March 16, 2025 9:30am Second Sunday in Lent

Gathering

SONG TO GATHER

"Lead Me to the Cross" All Verse 1/Chorus

by Brooke Ligertwood



WELCOME Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls.

ALL: For we have not only met temptation, we have felt its grip.

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways.

ALL: For we have not only committed sin, we have felt its sting.

ONE: The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts.

ALL: For we have not only witnessed forgiveness, we have felt its power.

O come, let us worship the Lord!

***SONG TO PRAISE**

"I Will Follow"

by Chris Tomlin

ΔΙ

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay I'll stay; When You move, I'll move. I will follow.

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure;
I will trust in You alone.
Higher than my sight, high above my life;
I will trust in You alone.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay I'll stay;
When You move, I'll move. I will follow.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow You. I will follow You.

Light into the world, light into my life
I will live for You alone.
You're the one I see, knowing I will find all I need in You alone.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay I'll stay;
When You move, I'll move. I will follow.
Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow You. I will follow You.

In You there's life everlasting.
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy, unending joy;
And I will follow.

Where You go, I'll go; where You stay I'll stay; When You move, I'll move. I will follow. Whom You love, I'll love. How You serve, I'll serve If this life I lose, I will follow You. I will follow You.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(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

Is this not the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice; to share your bread with the hungry; to bring the homeless poor into your house; to clothe the naked? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn and your healing shall spring up quickly. Having heard these promises, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

We struggle to manifest the fruits of the Spirit, but often find ourselves bound by works of the flesh. We know the whole law is summed up in the single commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Yet we create fences around ourselves to keep neighbors outside and tell ourselves we have no responsibility. Even in our own back yard we "bite and devour" one another. We wish it were different. When Jesus calls us to follow him, we find every excuse to instead go home or to the workplace to finish something more important first. Yet we yearn to be more centered on You.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Despite our resistance, we can be assured that God's strong arm redeems the people. God calls us back to God's realm, and encourages us with a love we can never lose no matter how hard we push back, no matter how often we forget, no matter how far we stray. We need but ask and we are forgiven.

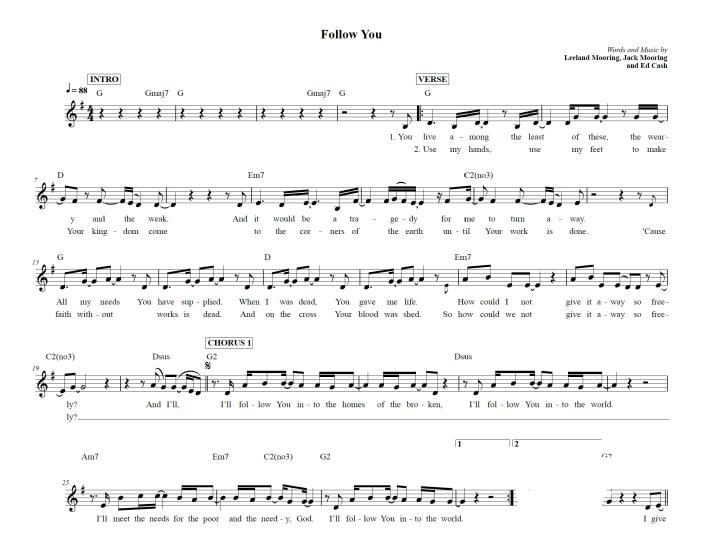
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

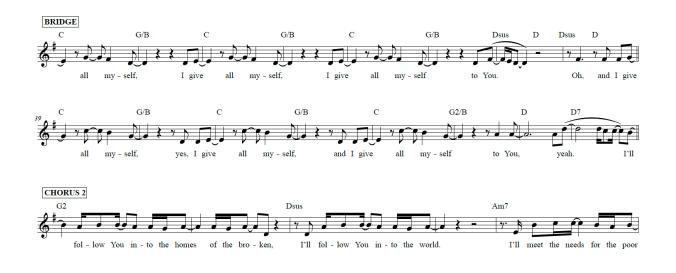
ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you. **ALL:** And also with you and all others!

***SONG OF PEACE**

"Follow You"
All

by Leeland Mooring, Jack Mooring &Ed Cash











Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (NRSVue)

Bond Faulwell

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

SONG TO REFLECT

"Available"

by Elevation Worship

Praise Team

Narrow as the road may seem, I'll follow where your spirit leads.

Broken as my life may be, I will give you ev'ry piece.

I hear you call; I am available. I say, "Yes, Lord, I am available."

Here I am with open hands counting on your grace again.
Less of me and more of you, I just wanna see you move.
I hear you call; I am available. I say, "Yes, Lord, I am available."

Here I am, here I am. You can have it all.

For the one who gave me life nothing is a sacrifice.

Use me how you want to, God.

Have your throne within my heart.

I hear you call; I am available. I say, "Yes, Lord, I am available."

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 9:51–62 (NRSVue)

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say

farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Turn From Anger to Grace"

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

SONG FOR GIVING

"How Beautiful"

All

by Twila Paris

How Beautiful



Sending

*SONG TO SEND

"Lead Me to the Cross"
All

by Brooke Ligertwood

(continue the song from the Gathering)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

^{*}Stand in body or spirit

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

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