### WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC Fourth Sunday of Lent March 10, 2024

**PRELUDE** 

"Have Mercy Upon Me, O God"

Johann Sebastian Bach

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

### \*SONG OF CENTERING

"Restore in Us, O God (vs. 1)



### LENTEN CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader One: In this season of Lent we reflect on our journey of faith with Christ, remembering that the people wandered in the desert for forty years, and that though Jesus himself was tempted in the wilderness, he often went to a deserted place to pray. God knows the trials and temptations we face in our lives can be like crossing through a wilderness, and yet sometimes it is only once we have passed through those difficult times that we have been able to experience how only God helped us through.

Reader Two: We light this candle on this fourth Sunday of Lent, remembering God's faithfulness and that God is the one who leads us on the pathways through the desert and wilderness, and turns the desert into pools of water.

(Light the fourth candle)

Reader OneLet us pray: As the days lengthen, dear God, may we remember that it is you who brings us safely through the wilderness, and that it is you who brings life to deserted places. In the name of Christ, with whom we journey towards the cross, we pray. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING "God Loved the World"

NCH#208



The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading
Read by Liturgist

# Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

HANDBELL CHOIR

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

Arranged by Joel Gary

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession - Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

ALL: Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled. We are weak in faith, strengthen us. We are cold in love, warm us, and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice! You are loved! AMEN.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

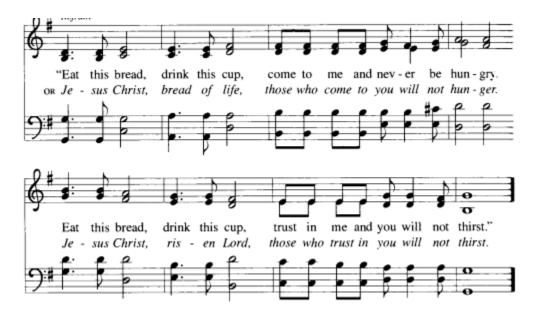
One: Let us pray....

Words of Institution

### SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

# COMMUNION HYMN "Eat this Bread"



### CHILDREN'S BLESSING

## John 3:14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Sermon: "To Serve a Loving God"

Rev. Nathan Dannison

The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the next hymn

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

"As Moses Raised the Serpent Up" NCH#605 As raised the God's Mo ses ser pent up, 2 For loved God, all God the world that SO 3 That Child the world not was sent in to Child is lift ed high; And all who that hu man life to free. Gave the world God's through Christ's name demn but save; Now con shall Child be lieve die. nev nev er might Child that all live e ter nal ly. - what drous deemedwon love God gave.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor

Pastor: ...We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us, Saying together,

People: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

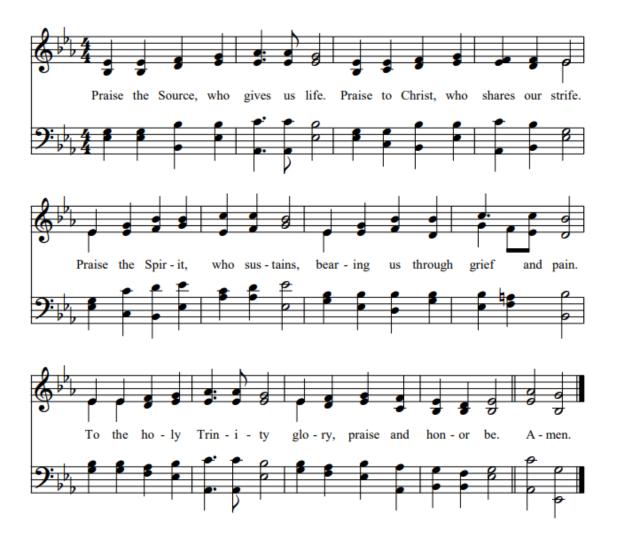
Pastor

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

**OFFERTORY** 

Lenten Doxology



\*CHARGE Liturgist

Liturgist: Go out into the world

and trust in the faithfulness of God.

Speak truth. Embody compassion. Live simply. Love recklessly.

Transform the world through the power of hope.

People: We go in peace to love and serve God in the name of Jesus Christ.

\*SONG OF PARTING

"Amazing Grace"

NCH#547



\*BENEDICTION Pastor

POSTLUDE:

"Litanies"

Jehan Alain