

reLent *The Worship of Almighty God*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: Laetare Sunday

THE LORD'S DAY, 14 March, Anno Domini 2021 Eleven o'clock in the morning | The Sanctuary

♦denotes the People stand, in body or in spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in bold.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that He may live in us, and we in Him; who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

—Book of Common Prayer

GREETING

The Rev^d Dr. Mark Conforti, Senior Pastor

Please see our [website](#) or [newsletter](#) for more information about upcoming ministry opportunities.

PRELUDE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Master Jude Smeltzer, piano

Hans Hassler

♦ CALL to WORSHIP (*responsively*)

Holy One, for the openness to hear Your Word;
for the faith that grows in our hearts and minds;
for the strength to be on the journey together,
we give You thanks and praise.

Let us worship!

¶ GATHERING HYMN

CRUCIFER

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world a-dore His Sa-cred Name.

1. Come, Christians, fol-low where our Sav-ior trod,
2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied
3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,
4. For Thy blest cross which doth for us a-tone,
5. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be:

the Lamb vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bears on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
as Thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to Thee.
Cre-a-tion's prais-es raise be-fore Thy throne.
Praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

¶ CALL to LAMENT and REPENTANCE

The Rev^d Stacey Lundy, Associate Pastor

Our God is compassionate and merciful, knowing us with an intimacy we cannot comprehend. There is nothing we have done, or left undone, that is not already known by God. This gives us confidence, to be fully ourselves, that we can be fully forgiven.

Let us pray:

(A brief moment of silence follows for private confession.)

¶ CORPORATE PRAYER of CONFESSION (in unison)

GOD of grace, You call on us to repent, to endure, and to hope:
Strengthen us that we may work always for the common good.
We confess that though we look for sin in others,
 We are reluctant to examine ourselves;
We are caught up in worldly wisdom and forget Your words;
 We complain about troubles and fail to see Your good gifts.
Have patience with us and nurture us that we may grow in love,
 for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

❖ ASSURANCE of GOD'S PARDON (*responsively*)

Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between us through His death on the cross. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We are reconciled to God through Christ, and entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. Thanks be to God!

❖ DOXOLOGY (*in unison*)

HAMBURG

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in common time (indicated by '4') and G major (indicated by a treble clef). The lyrics are:

Praise God, from whom all ble - ssings flow;
Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;
Praise God a - bove, ye hea - ven - ly host;
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!

❖ PRAYER for ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

Mrs. Nalini Joseph, Lector

GOD of our salvation, when we were kept down by sin, You raised us up with Christ: Show us the immeasurable riches of Your grace that we may show the world the healing power of the cross. In the Name of Jesus who died and was raised. *Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

[Psalm 15](#)

EPISTLE LESSON

[I Corinthians 1.10-18](#)

SERMON

❖ AFFIRMATION of OUR FAITH (in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick* and the dead.

[*living]

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

[**universal]

RECEPTION of GOD'S TITHES and OUR OFFERINGS

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LITANY of LAMENT

Lord, we did not want to live in “unprecedented times.” The trouble we had was enough.
Inequities have been revealed and intensified, trends accelerated, hands forced. We did not want this.

The world groans under so much unbearable weight. 550,000 deaths in the United States; almost 300 in our own county. So many more live with lingering effects on their health, livelihood, and financial future.

The things that provided boundaries and stability in our life have changed, and continue to change, yet we are asked to be creative, patient, and flexible. Extroverts aren't getting enough time with other people, and introverts aren't able to get away and recharge. All of us are struggling with being confined and constricted. How long, O Lord?

We struggle with the deaths and loss of relationships because of the pandemic. We grieve for those we have lost, as well as our normal ways of grieving.

We have been cut off from human touch: from hugs, from handshakes, from flashing smiles not under masks. We've lost hallway conversations, long dinner conversations, fun events.

Our holidays and celebrations have all been affected: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, graduations, retirements, weddings, funerals, and births. How long, O Lord?

As if the virus were not enough to contend with, we have had bitter battles over government, civil rights, our role and responsibility in care for one another, and science. Free-floating anxieties have added to our own anxiety, and have been amplified by social media. We're not sure we want to see some people face-to-face anymore.

We have had constant disappointments, unmet expectations, frustrated efforts. We want things to go back to "normal," even as we realize things will never be the same. We are not ok with that.

There have been joys along the way: sensing God's presence in prayer and in The Story of scripture, more time with people in our household, opportunities to learn something new or connect with nature, connecting with people through technology. But sometimes, this does not feel like enough in the face of all we have lost.

Holy God, we trust that you are big enough to hear our lament, and care deeply for our health and well-being. You, and you alone, have the power to turn our world around and bring your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. So hear us as we pray as Jesus continues to teach us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

from Matthew 6.9-13

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. **Amen.**

❖ SENDING HYMN

WONDROUS LOVE



1. What won - drous love is this,
2. When I was sink - ing down,
3. To God and to the Lamb, I will sing,
4. And when from death I'm free,



What won - drous love is this, O my soul! _____ What won - drous love is this
When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down. _____ When I was sink - ing down
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing. _____ To God and to the Lamb
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. _____ And when from death I'm free



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,
be -neath God's righteous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul,
who is the great "I AM"; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing,
I'll sing and joy - ful be; And through E - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on,



for my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul. _____
for my soul. Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul. _____
I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing. _____
I'll sing on; And through E - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on! _____

❖ BENEDICTION and COMMISSION

...Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

Master Jude Smeltzer, piano

Traditional Spiritual

❖ DEPARTURE into THE MISSION FIELD



Our Lenten banner depicts the cross of Christ in white. It stands out against the darkness of purple, ash gray, and other somber colors, representing pain, suffering, mourning, and penance. The two black crosses of the thieves crucified with Christ are in the background. In contrast, the lighter colors around the cross of Christ represent hope that comes from the blood of Christ, shed for our redemption and the forgiveness of sin. The black sand and burlap runner in the chancel remind us of the biblical illustration of wearing sackcloth and the use of ashes as a sign of mourning and penitence, and they call us to remember our own human mortality. The reeds remind us of Jesus' fasting and temptation by Satan in the desert for 40 days and nights, while also foreshadowing Christ's Passion.



A special "thank you" to all those serving in worship today, including:
Miss Autumn Walser, Acolyte; Miss Alfreda & Miss Christie Chea (vocals),
Mr. Kevin Lundy (guitar), and Master Jude Smeltzer (piano), Youth Band Musicians;
Ms. Jen Fogt, Video Producer; and The Reverend Stacey Lundy, Video Editor.



Week of March 14-20

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LEVITICUS 21-22
I TIMOTHY 3
PSALM 15

LEVITICUS 23
I TIMOTHY 4-6

LEVITICUS 24-25
TITUS 1

LEVITICUS 26-27
TITUS 2-3
PSALM 10

NUMBERS 1-3
PSALM 66
I CORINTHIANS 1-2

Click the seal above for more information on "The Story" or the banner above for a link to this week's reading plan.



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FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Salisbury, North Carolina

217 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA 28144-4927

704.636.3121 ✉ www.fumcsalisbury.org

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