

A Lenten Quiet Worship

Saturday, 21 March 2015, around the Fireplace in the Bushnell Room, at 9:00 a.m.

As we experience this Lenten season, as we gather in the quiet beauty of this place, let us remember these words of introduction from our *Book of Common Worship*:

"Every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . We enter this holy season acknowledging our need for repentance . . . and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Now as we gather in silence, let us and remember the One from whom our hope comes . . .

Gathering Music:

"Four Lenten Chants"

from *More Sublime Chant: The Art of Gregorian, Ambrosian, Gallican, and Sarum Chant*

"O Christ, Redeemer everlasting . . ."

"The Lord Jesus humbled himself . . ."

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord . . ."

"Panis Angelicus . . ."

A brief period of calm and silence.

Opening Words

". . . deep within . . ." from *Celtic Treasure*, by John Philip Newell,
The Pascal Candle was lighted when we arrived

**O Christ, in whom the fullness of God dwells,
you are deep within our lives
and all life,
you are deep within this place
and every place.**

**In this place and this time
and in the depths of our own souls,
we draw from the inner well
of your love,
that we too might be filled
with the fullness of God,
that you might do within us
and in our world
more than we could ever ask or imagine.**

A brief period of calm and silence

Sung Prayers

two sung prayers from *Songs of Presence*, by David Keller and Lynn Bauman

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish

**“In the name of the Holy One,
in the name of the Son,
in the name of the Spirit
We are made one.”**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy One,
Holy, Holy, Holy One.”**

A brief period of calm and silence

Psalm of the Day

from *Psalm 43*, “Prayer to God in time of trouble”
from the *Lectionary* for Saturday in the Fourth Week of Lent

**“ . . . You are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?**

**O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.**

**Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise God,
my help and my God.**

NRSV

A brief period of silence, for reflection on the *Psalm*

Sung Prayers

two sung prayers from *Songs of Presence*, by David Keller and Lynn Bauman

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish

**“To whom shall we go,
to whom shall we go?
You have the words of life.”**

**“Leave all things you have
and come and follow me.”**

A brief period of calm and silence

The Gospel Reading

John 16:16-22, “Sorrow will turn to Joy”

Jesus said, “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me.’

Then some of disciples said to one another, ‘What does he mean by saying to us, “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me”; and “Because I am going to the Father”?’ They said, ‘What does he mean by this “a little while”? We do not know what he is talking about.’

Jesus knew what they wanted to ask him, so he said to them ‘Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while and you will see me”?’ Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn to joy.

When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.”

NRSV

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Great Silence

The sound of the gong signals the beginning (once) and the ending (three times) of this time for listening with the ears of our hearts . . . for seeking to rest in God's loving embrace [c. 10 min.].

Prayers of the People from *Celtic Treasure* by J. Philip Newell and the *Book of Common Worship*

"In intercessory prayer, we express our love for others and for the world." Thomas Merton

**"In the silence of our hearts or in spoken words
let us give thanks for the gift of this day
and pray for the life of the world. . . .**

**Especially this morning we thank you
for the privilege of worship and service in this congregation . . .
for the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ . . .
for our calling to discipleship . . .
for our calling to repentance . . .
Lord in your mercy . . . *Hear our prayer***

**We hold up before you human needs, God of compassion,
for you have come to us in Jesus Christ and shared our life
so we may share his resurrection.**

**Especially today we pray
for the healing of those who are sick . . .
for the comfort of the dying . . .
for renewal of those who despair . . .
for the Spirit's power in the church, and in our lives . . .
Lord in your mercy . . . *Hear our prayer***

Lord, listen as we now offer our individual prayers, in silence or in words.

Each spoken prayer ends with: Lord in your mercy, . . . *Hear our prayer.*

**We know that you do hear our prayers, Lord. Listen also now
as we offer the prayer taught to us by your Son, Jesus:**

**“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”**

Brief silence

Closing Sung Prayers

from Songs of Presence, by David Keller and Lynn Bauman

Listen or hum or sing quietly, as you wish

**“Remain in the company of God this day,
remain in the company of God
Remain in the company of God this day,
remain, remain, remain.”**

Brief silence

Closing Words and Blessing

from the Book of Common Worship, the Pascal Candle remains lighted

**As our worship ends, and as we go forth into the world
in this Lenten season,**

**"I invite you, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent . . .
by self-examination and penitence, . . .
by prayer and fasting, . . .
by works of love, . . .
and by reading and meditating on the Word of God."**

**May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

Leave when you are ready