A Lenten Quiet Worship

Saturday, 21 March 2020, 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 the Words of Introduction from our Book of Common Worship:

"Every year at this 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."

As we gather in silence . . . let us remember the One from whom our hope comes . . .

(As we gather today, we become a part of the annual “United in Prayer Day” Organized each March by Contemplative Outreach in thousands of places around the world.)


“O Christ, Redeemer everlasting . . .”

“The Lord Jesus humbled himself . . .”

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

“All glory, laud, and honor to you Redeemer, King . . .”

A brief period of calm and silence.

Opening Words " . . . deep within our lives . . . " from Celtic Treasure, by John Philip Newell, the Christ Candle is lighted

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 Third 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

Mark 7:14-23, “The Tradition of the Elders”

“Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’”

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 these forty days of Lent . . .
   and the Gifts they Reinforce . . .
      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 that 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 Prayer

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

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