



Strengthening Servanthood



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 30, 2025

Loving God, in all I do this day,
use me as a servant of your reconciling love.

Let me not view anyone with a critical eye,
but let me see all whom I will encounter with the
eyes of Christ,
through whom I pray. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**please stand as you're able*

WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

PRELUDE

Medieval Tune, P. Fey¹

CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered, Passion Chorale²

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Luke 15:11-32

Nik Sarda, Andrea Kenny, Kate Fletcher, Roger Fletcher

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving God, we confess that we, like the younger brother, often live out prodigal schemes and plans. We wander from your ways, distance ourselves from you, and squander your treasures.

All: **Help us turn away from sin and evil, and turn toward you. By the power of your Spirit, renew and restore us; and help us sense your joyful embrace.**

One: We confess that we, like the older brother, often resent the grace you have shown to prodigals.

All: **Teach us to marvel at your lavish grace, and enable us to join the celebration you offer for all of us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***SONG OF CELEBRATION HYMN 418 (vs. 3)** *Softly and Tenderly, Softly and Tenderly*³

3. O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.

“Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.”

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling “O sinner, come home!”

*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Please turn to the back wall and wave to our online worshippers, offering them the peace of Christ and then greet each other.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

After the message, children may follow the teacher to room 11 for Spiritual Adventures.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:15-21

SERMON

Service as Radical Hospitality

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 774**

*There is Now a New Creation, Stuttgart*⁴

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 649 (vs. 1)

*Amazing Grace*⁵

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*The Road Home, S. Paulus*⁶

***DEDICATION HYMN 761 (vs. 1)**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*⁷

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to grace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SEALING THE WORD

***HYMN 771**

*What Is the World Like, New World*⁸

***CHARGE**

BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (insert)**

*Make Me a Servant, Make Me a Servant*⁹

POSTLUDE

*Going Home, arr. J. Martin*¹⁰

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Leaders Today:

Preacher: Pastor Sara Tonje

Liturgist: Roger Fletcher

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

The Chancel Choir

Dorothy Blotz, Piano

Ushers/Greeters: Jeff & Elsa Shaver, Linda Moss, Sandra Cole (Deacon)

