

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Season in Lent

Six o'clock in the Evening

The Prologue

Lent is a season of reflection and repentance for the Church to reflect on our own sinfulness, turn towards repentance, and acknowledge our need for salvation. During this season of Lent, we invite each person in our church to press into the reality of sin. The readings and scriptures referenced in these Wednesday evening services are designed to raise provocative questions about our lives, even as we painfully consider the violent consequences of sin, individually and collectively. Over these next forty days, we invite you to meditate on the seriousness of all that is transpiring in our world, including the impact on humanity and our earth as a result of human sin, even as we seek the truth and love imbued within the still speaking Spirit of God!

Gathering Music

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Call to Worship and Welcome.

The Music for Contemplation

The Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord,

We have gathered here, loving God, to mark the beginning of the season of Lent and our journey to the cross; we have gathered here to repent of our sins publicly and privately; we have come together as beloved faith community, where we can draw strength, knowing that wherever two or three are gathered, you are present among us; guide us throughout these forty days as we journey to the cross and deeper into your embrace; let us put to death those things that separate us from one another and from you; may we know your presence, your transformative love, and your redeeming grace, among us and beyond us. In the name of Jesus, our companion on this journey, we pray.

Amen.

The Opening Hymn, No. 190

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

STORIES OF JESUS

The Litany

The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem!

Lent calls us to the cutting edge when the wheat falls to the ground and new life comes forth!

Lent not only calls us to give up something, but also invites us to participate in the mystery of God-with-us!

By your grace, call us from grief into gladness, despair into hope, estrangement into right relations with one another and with the earth!

The Response (*Chalice Praise*)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Stephen Reinhardt

The Confession

An Adaptation of PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness. In the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me!

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

A clean heart create for me, Oh God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me!

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit! A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn!

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

A Reading from Scripture

LUKE 4:1-13

The Meditation

Celebrate Lent!

Timothy W. Shirley

The Closing Hymn, No. 519

Create in Me

MILLAR

The Benediction

The Music for Piano

Accompanist: Linda Brainard

These materials have been accessed from various websites and are not to be disseminated for public consumption.