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**Order of Worship 11am Worship Sunday, March 17th, 2024**

Mission: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ’s love thrives.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship\* Liturgist, Ryan Smith

One: In this season of Lent, we make our way to the cros**s,**

**Many: We remember the step that led Christ there: betrayal and question, but also trust in God, and love for humanity.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross, we strive to follow Christ’s example, to recognize fear, to question, and to surrender,

**Many: To embrace trust in God and love for humanity.**

One: So we may make our journey, together, as a body, worshipping God today.

Hymn\* Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days UMH 269

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

2. As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

3. As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

4. And through these days of penitence, and through thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

5. Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

The Peace of Christ\*

Reception of New Members

L: Members of the household of God, … and perfect them in love.

**P: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you now in Christian love. As fellow members of the body of Christ, we will surround you with a community of love and forgiveness, that you may grow in your trust of God, and be found faithful in service to others. We pray for you, that you may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life. We also renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Congregational Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you “Rabbi, Teacher.” Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, “How many times should we forgive?”—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.**

Scripture Reading Psalm 32:1-7 Liturgist, Ryan Smith

Congregational and Lord’s Prayer

L: Lord in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer.**

**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**

Children’s Time Lisa Coe

Anthem Lenten Contemplation Soloists: Nathan Heslink

& Jenny Sammis

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:21-35 Rev. Jan Phillips

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

Sermon Wandering Heart: Teach Me Rev. Steve Jones

Affirmation of Faith\* From the Prayer of St. Patrick

**I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through a belief in the Threeness, Through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation. I arise today through the strength of Christ’s birth and His baptism, through the strength of His crucifixion and His burial, through the strength of His resurrection and His ascension. I arise today through God’s strength to pilot me; God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s way to lie before me, God’s shield to protect me.I arise today through the strength of heaven; light of the sun, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind, depth of the sea, stability of the earth, firmness of the rock, through a confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.**

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Hymn\* Hymn of St. Patrick TFWS #2166

1. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me shield in strife; Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising light of my life.

3. Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me King of my heart; Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me never to part.

Benediction\*

Postlude