

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

The shadow of the cross is upon us. Come to us, O God, in this shadow so that we might find solace, even as we participate in the crucifixions of the daily world. Be present, still our hearts and let us find our peace in you. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- We do not have to escape our pains; we can mobilize them into a common search for life.
 Henri Nouwen (Theologian and Pastor)
- ❖ The best rose bush, after all, is not that which has the fewest thorns, but that which bears the finest roses.
 -Emily Dickinson (Poet)
- When one person dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; every chapter must be translated.

- John Donne (Philosopher and Poet)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come to this holy space and time in humility.

Many: We come with heads bowed and hearts open.

One: Center mind and heart on the journey of Jesus.

Many: We take on the mind of Christ Jesus.

One: Still the voices that make noise in the head.

Many: We turn our attention to you, O Christ.

All: We worship with awe the one who takes us to Jerusalem.

PRAISE SONG: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

THE CONFESSION:

Merciful Savior, forgive us our sins. We confess that we do not hold you close in our daily lives. We confess that we separate our decisions from your will. We confess our fear of death and the ugliness of the world leads us to avoid the way of the cross. We confess that we prefer to be admired rather than faithful. Forgive us we pray. Realign our wills with your hopes for us. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's hope for us is here for the knowing. Be blessed with grace and peace as a forgiven people and pick up your cross and follow.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: Break Our Hearts Again (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Matthew 16: 24-26

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

MESSAGE: "A World that Only God Could Love" - Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: Remembering the Promise (music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: May these forty days bring you a new depth of God's vision. May you be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, even unto the cross. Go forth to live and love as Christ does, now and always.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: I Will Trust in You (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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