

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

God, we pray earnestly and expectantly that you will fill our hearts and this place with your presence. Teach us the way of the cross. It is a difficult life, but we trust that it is the only true life worthy of your mission. Teach us the words of Jesus and shape our lives by them. Teach us the deeds of Jesus and form us by them. We are eager and ready to hear the gospel and praise your holy name. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- "It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it."
 - Hans Urs von Balthasar, Unless You Become Like This Child (Swiss Catholic Theologian)
- * "The cross is not a sign of the church's quiet, suffering submission to the powersthat-be, but rather the church's revolutionary participation in the victory of Christ over those powers. The cross is not a symbol for general human suffering and oppression. Rather, the cross is a sign of what happens when one takes God's account of reality more seriously than Caesar's. The cross stands as God's (and our) eternal no to the powers of death, as well as God's eternal yes to humanity, God's remarkable determination not to leave us to our own devices."

 — Stanley Hauerwas, Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony (Theologian)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Gather together to worship God!

People: We gather to reunite with God's purposes.

Leader: Gather together to walk with Christ!

People: We gather to make our way to the cross.

Leader: Gather together as disciples committed to holy life! **People: We gather to live the faith fully in our lives.**

PRAISE SONG: Cross of Christ (music at end of bulletin)

THE CONFESSION:

All: We confess we turn our backs on the cross. The rawness of life and death is hard to bear. Forgive us for our turned backs on you, on creation, on the poor, the suffering and the neglected. We are good at excuses. We need your forgiveness over and over; create a new desire in us to walk in solidarity with all who suffer as you would have us do. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Repent, and believe in the gospel. For through the cross is new life. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: I Come to the Cross (music at end of bulletin)

THE READING: Mark 8:27-33

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

MESSAGE: "Do I Have to Go?" - Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: God, I Am Beaten, Battered and Bruised (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:

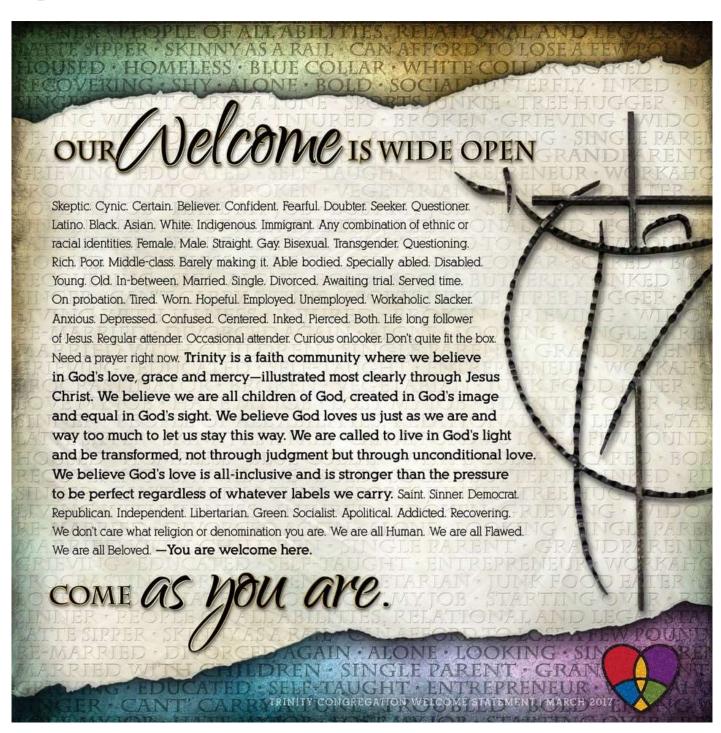
Leader: May these forty days bring you new depth of God's vision. May you be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, even unto the Cross. Go forth to live and love as Christ does, now and always. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: The Journey of Praise (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

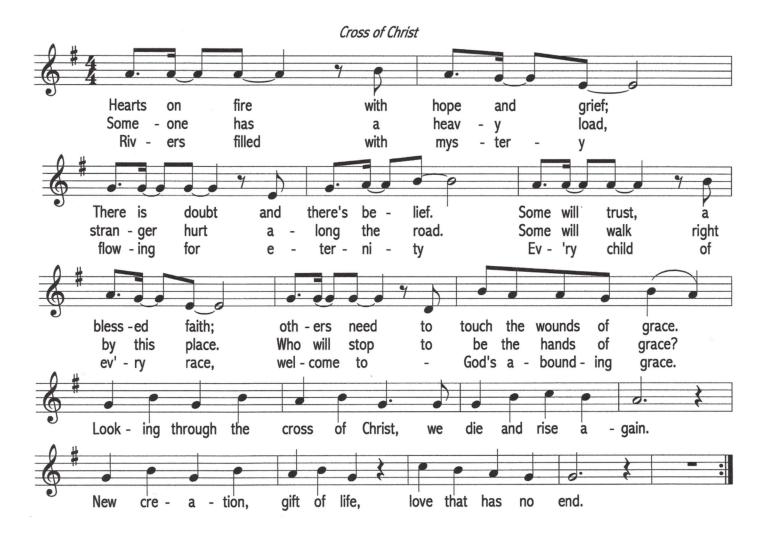


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I Come to the Cross



God, I am Beaten, Battered and Bruised



