

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

**First Sunday in Lent**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*When you forgive, you in no way change the past - but you sure do change the future.*  
~Bernard Meltzer

PRELUDE: *Is There Anybody Here Who Loves My Jesus* spiritual arr. by Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

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INTROIT *The Time of Fulfillment* (see insert) James Chepponis

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

**People: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!**

Leader: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

**People: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.**

Leader: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

**People: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all.**

\*HYMN *We Come to You for Healing Lord* GG: 796

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all “legalistic” about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, “Once burned, twice shy.” Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(A time of silent confession)*

*Amen.*

ASURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another.

**People: May our forgiveness be a deep well that exceeds forgiving even seventy-seven times.**

\*RESPONSE *Live in Charity (Ubi caritas)* sing 2x GG: 205

**All: Ubi caritas et amor (Live in charity and steadfast love.)  
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est. (Live in charity; God will dwell with you.)**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another!

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Come Along Home To Jesus* Mock/McCartha

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

\*HYMN *Restore in Us, O God* GG: 434

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 32:1-5, pg. 506

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:15-35, pg. 20

One: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “What is the minimum I have to forgive, Jesus?” Rev. A. Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      *Restoration*                      Southern Harmony 1835

\*DOXOLOGY              *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*              *tune GG: 606*

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 debts as we forgive  
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN                      *Guide My Feet*                      GG: 741

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE      *Shepherd Me, O God*                      GG: 473

POSTLUDE                      *Christ, The Life Of All The Living*                      Flor Peters

\*\*\*Latecomers Seated. \*All who are able please stand