

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord

**Prelude
Welcome**



**“Gathered up in Jesus”
Worship series**

Week 3

Announcements/Joys & Concerns

The Christ who gathers us up invites us to live a life of fruitfulness. That’s the call hidden in our text for this week.

We all want our lives to amount to something. Jesus gives us that sense of purpose and direction. We are called to bear fruit. What does that mean? What is fruitful? What kind of fruit? Who benefits from this fruit? That’s part of today’s lesson: to learn to understand and experience our own fruitfulness.

To be gathered up in Jesus is not simply to take it easy, but to find a community and a place of service. This week, we celebrate fruitfulness. We don’t serve out of fear, or even duty. We serve because that is our purpose, and we are most ourselves when we are in service, bearing fruit in community. So, ponder on ways to lift up acts of service and moments of grace between and within our body and beyond. During our Lenten journey.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ruth C. Duck, in Bread for the Journey, edited by Ruth C. Duck (Pilgrim Press, 1981), 35-36.

A great teacher once said, “When Jesus Christ calls us, he bids us come and die” . We are the people who have responded to this call.

Through Christ, we want to die to the fears that keep us from loving.

Through Christ, we want to die to the stubbornness that keeps us from sharing our gifts.

Through Christ, we want to die to seeking our own success and salvation in disregard for the good of all God’s children.

This is God’s promise, that if we die with Christ, we will also rise with Christ.

God be praised for the glorious promise of new life in Christ. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH 381 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

Author (attributed to): Dorothy A. Thrupp (1836)

Publication Date: 1989

Composer: William B. Bradbury (1859)

**1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.**

**2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear, O hear us when we pray.**

**3. Thou hast promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
We will early turn to thee.**

**4. Early let us seek thy favor,
early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Thou hast loved us, love us still.**

We Hear God's Word

**Gospel Reading..... Luke 13:1-9
New Revised Standard Version**

Repent or Perish

13 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN FWS #2196 "We Walk By Faith"

Author: Henry Alford (alt.)

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Composer (attr.): Hugh Wilson

Copyright: Public Domain

**1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**2 We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound;
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**4 That when our life of faith is done
in realms of clearer light
may we behold you as you are,
in full and endless sight.**

**5 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
with gracious words we hear
of him who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

"Message"

A GENERAL PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Third Sunday in Lent

Timothy J. Crouch, OSL, Nancy B. Parks, OSL, Chris E. Visminas, Mark R. Babb, OSL, And Also With You: Worship Resources Based on the Revised Common Lectionary Year C (OSL Publications, 1994), 51.

O God of everflowing grace, you fill our every need and satisfy our every hunger. As we come before you to feast on your goodness our mouths are filled with praise for your wonderful Name.

From generation to generation you have sustained your people. In the deserts of life you bring forth springs of water. When we encounter the storms of life, you are our refuge. You nurture us as your own beloved, but we do not bear fruit. We are never satisfied. We seek out the comforts of this earth and do dishonor to you, the Giver of every good gift. We are liable for judgement, for our guilt is great. Spare your wrath from falling on us, O merciful God. Forgive our sin and free us to follow with joy in your righteous ways.

Led and sustained by your Spirit, your Church has continued to this day. Anoint us with that same Spirit that we may be your witnesses, calling the nations of the world to run to you, the Holy One of Israel.

Your tender mercy and compassion extends beyond our ability to comprehend it. We commit to your loving care this day our loved ones whom we have named. O God, be their help. Take them in the shadow of your wings; uphold them with your right hand and give them strength to bear their trials. Give healing to the sick, peace to the dying, and comfort those who mourn.

We know that those who call upon your Name rejoice. Help us rejoice anew as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, Our Father...

Departing Hymn UMH #583 "Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)"

Author: Cesareo Gabaraín (1979)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: © 1979 Cesareo Gabarain. Published by OCP

Notes: Hymnal states text copyrighted 1979 Ediciones Paulinas and trans. copyrighted 1989 The United Methodist House, however, copyright has been reassigned, admin. by OCP

Tune Information

Composer: Cesareo Gabaraín (1979)

Harmonizer: Skinner Chávez-Melo (1987)

Copyright: © 1979 Cesareo Gabarain. Published by OCP; Harm. © 1987 Skinner Chávez-Melo

Notes: Hymnal states copyright 1979 Ediciones Paulinas, however copyright has now been reassigned

- 1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a star that will shine in the night; you are the yeast and a small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark. You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the wheat that will bear golden grain; you are a sting and a soft, gentle touch, my witnesses where'er you go.**

Refrain:

**Go, my friends, go to the world,
proclaiming love to all,
messengers of my forgiving peace,
eternal love.**

**Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the
dead I arose;
"Lo, I'll be with you forever, till the end
of the world."**

- 2. You are the flame that will lighten the dark, sending sparkles of hope, faith, and love; you are the shepherds to lead the whole world through valleys and pastures of peace. You are the friends that I chose for myself, the word that I want to proclaim. You are the new kingdom built on a rock where justice and truth always reign.**

Refrain:

- 3. You are the life that will nurture the plant; you're the waves in a turbulent sea; yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might; may your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God.**

Refrain:

A BENEDICTION FOR LENT

Go into the world in faith!

Trusting God to lead you, trusting people to receive you.

Go into the world with hope!

With God's presence before you and human dreams to carry you.

Go into the world with love!

Serving with those in whom Christ lives, and laboring for those for whom Jesus died.

Go in Faith, Hope, and Love!

***POSTLUDE**