



February 21, 2021

The Worship of God
Praying With Our Eyes

The First Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

PRELUDE: Chorale Prelude on *Vater unser im Himmelreich*

Johann Schneider

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eternal Spirit, who first brooded over chaos and brought order,
brood over our souls and make us whole.
Give us grace to look deeply inward for the world is too much with us
and we forget that while we have bodies we are souls.
Give us grace to look upward so that you are not lost to us
and we feel ourselves in your inescapable hands.
Give us grace to look outward so that in bearing our own troubles
we may be better able to help others with theirs.
Give us grace to look forward so that hope does not fail us
and the dream of your kingdom on earth does not fade.
God, come near to us, one by one.
Quicken our awareness of your presence
and make us receptive to your Spirit. Amen.

Harry Emerson Fosdick
Book of Public Prayers, adapted

THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Holy Angels"

Sara Thomsen

You are held by holy angels. Holy angels all around you. Hush now, sleep child, sing the
holy angels. We are holding you. You can rest. Morning will come, child, the dawn will
break thru the darkness. We are holding you thru the light of the new born day. Loo, loo,
loo, loo, loo, loo, loo.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance to enter the wilderness
places where we are confronted with our true selves and are tempted to put worldly values
before our desire for you. Forgive our hunger for power and wealth and our disinterest in
seeking and doing your will; forgive our inclination to use the gifts you give us to benefit
ourselves at the expense of serving others; forgive our attempts to manipulate you to satisfy
our own needs. Above all, forgive our reluctance to look carefully and honestly at you lest
we discover ourselves. Open our eyes and our lives to your redemptive love.

silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MEDITATION

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

HYMN: "When We Are Tested" ANGELS OF HEALING

When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

PROCLAMATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON: "Seeing God in the Wilderness" Dr. Wright

OFFERTORY OPPORTUNITY AND PRAYER

*We give thanks for the Christian Men's Fellowship Home, a halfway house for men
recovering from addiction and restoring their lives. Their logo is on the altar.*

ANTHEM: "I Thank My God" J. Aaron McDermid

I thank my God when I remember you. In all my prayers I pray with joy for your partnership in sharing the Good News. For I am sure that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ. This is my prayer that your love may overflow and you will grow in knowledge and depth of understanding. This is my prayer. For I am sure that he who began a good work in you will carry it on, that you may see what is best and be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. Amen.

Philippians 1:3-6, 9-10

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We come to God's sanctuary to pray, lifting our eyes to the cross,
finding the light that shines through the stained glass and onto the well-worn pews.
These things we recognize . . . praying with our eyes.

We come to God's sanctuary to be lifted up, looking for his presence in the sunrise,
finding peace in a mountain stream, sensing hope in new buds on bare branches.
This world we observe . . . praying with our eyes.

We come to God's sanctuary to fellowship, peering into the eyes of friends and strangers,
looking for love and offering compassion, giving more than a glance when meeting a need.
These people we notice . . . praying with our eyes.

We come to God's sanctuary to be blessed, looking closely at everything around us, paying more
attention to all that is within us, so that we can become a worthy reflection and blessing to others.
We see ourselves . . . praying with our eyes.

POSTLUDE: Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Johann Gottfried Walther

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Mikayla Luke
Soprano

Diana Kirkpatrick
Organist

Erica Timmerman
Alto

Jacob McCain
Tenor

Jackson Baldwin
Baritone/Bass