

The Worship of God

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

PRELUDE

WORDS OF GATHERING

Scott Stearman
Pastor

Congregation read the bold print

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 19:1-6, 14

Beloved, God loved the world, God loves the world,
**May the truth of this love story,
shine in our worship today, and renew our calling.**
Come, with your tiredness,
your frustrations and your discouragements;
come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings;
**Let us come, to discover yet again
how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.**
Come, in love of God and each other,
**Let us listen for God's word to us, offer our prayers,
and renew our calling.**

INVOCATION

Joe Bergquist
Deacon

* HYMN

Praise to the Living God
words: Curtis Beach tune: DIADEMATA

1. Praise to the Living God, the god of love and light,
whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

2. Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils wher-e're we toil, in home and mart and mill;
and deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

3. Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as Love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
may we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Brittani O'Connell
Program Associate

*Updates about Metro and our community ministry, Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries.
Optional childcare is provided for children. Leaders can be found at the back*

COVENANT OF CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Tiffany Triplett Henkel
Pastor

SCRIPTURE READING

Numbers 21:4-9

HYMN #269

There Is a Balm in Gilead

LIGHTING A CANDLE**

Roger Smith

LENTEN CONFESSION

Congregation

Our God we are all aware that doubt, fear, disappointment, and anger are a part of the human path. We confess that at times when we need light for our path, we chose to curse the darkness rather than light a candle. We sometimes seek inauthentic power over trusting vulnerability; temporary security over eternal hope. We pray for forgiveness and ask for light.

ASSURANCE

Roger Smith

Hear again your name: Child of God

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Alan Green
Deacon Chair

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

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

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21

CHORAL ANTHEM

SERMON

Elevating Healing Powers

Scott Stearman

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #323

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

If you would like to formally join our community of faith or profess something publicly about your journey of faith, we invite you to speak to a pastor at this time.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Please join us following the service for coffee hour and fellowship.

**Please stand as you are able.*

*** Our theme for this year's Lenten worship services and Bible studies will be: "Light a Candle or Curse the Darkness - finding a light for the path, a way in the wilderness."*

After-worship Brown Bag Conversation - TODAY

Recently one of our primary mission-partners, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, changed it's hiring policy to partially include LGBTQ people. The change has been met with some frustration among progressive Baptists who had hoped for full inclusion.

For any interested in this conversation the pastors will lead a conversation today following the service about what, if any, our congregational response should be.

Lenten Bible Study – Light for the Path

Supper is served at 6:30, followed by Bible Study at 7:00. Contact Scott at sstearman@mbcnyc.org to RSVP & for respective addresses.

Dates & hosts are:

Lent 4 - Mar. 14 (Wed) Rebecca & Jacob's

Lent 5 - Mar. 21 (Wed) Tiffany & Dan's

Coming Up

TODAY
Mar 14
Mar 21
Mar 23
Mar 24
Mar 29
April 1
April 21

After Worship Conversation
Lenten Bible Study
Lenten Bible Study
Cover, A Play About Trafficking
Cover, A Play About Trafficking
Maundy Thursday Service
Easter Sunday
Tentative HKFP Opening

Help Us Serve Our Community in 2018!



RAUSCHENBUSCH
METRO MINISTRIES

See below for ways to donate your time, goods or money to Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries, Metro's community service not-for-profit.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Below is a list of programs and times when volunteers are needed:

Winter Clothes Closet	Mondays 12:30-3:00 pm
Page Turners	Tuesdays-Thursdays 4:15-5:30 pm
Food Pantry	Saturdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Teen Center	Fridays 4:00-8:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO COOK MEALS FOR LSEP

You can minister to these men and women by providing a dessert or a full meal for one of their sessions and plan to stay and eat with them. If you would like more information about serving in this way, email volunteer@rmmnyc.org.

DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in DIRE need of clothing items for our Winter Clothing Closet, especially **large coats, men's pants, gloves, hats, scarves, and new underwear**. We are also collecting for snack bags & toiletry kits. You can drop off any of these items year round: **small soaps & shampoo, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, washcloths**, as well as snack items such as **granola bars, crackers, water bottles, juice boxes, etc.** You can also make monetary donations to support RMM programs and services at www.rmmnyc.org/donate.

For further information about how to get involved or support RMM, email volunteer@rmmnyc.org.



Sanctuary Arts News

Stomping Ground Presents a reading of Cover

A Play About Trafficking

Inspired by The Covering House

March 23 and 24

Doors Open at 7:00PM, Showtime at 7:30PM

All Donations Accepted