

# The Worship of God

First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2019

## 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

Here, at the outset of Lent,  
we are called to walk:  
**to the paper-thin edges which cut us to the soul;**  
to the workplaces which weary us;  
**to the people who confuse us;**  
to the faith which threatens us.

Here, at the corner of Steadfast Love and Faithfulness,  
we are called to wait:

**when our clenched stomachs awaken us;**  
in the moments of unbearable sorrow;  
**with the angels who would carry us.**

Here, where time is fulfilled,  
where God's family is as near to us  
as our neighbor,  
**we begin Lent: with the Beloved,**  
whose tears wash away our fears,  
**with the God who will not let us go**

## INVOCATION

Carole Collins  
Deacon

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE #715

*Now Thank We All Our God*

## GREETING ONE ANOTHER

## LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Brooklyn Lovelace  
Administrative Assistant

*Updates about Metro and our community ministry, Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries.  
Guests are welcomed to fill out a card so that we may have a record of your visit.  
Optional childcare is provided for children. Leaders can be found at the back.*

## COVENANT OF CONCERNS

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Tiffany Triplett Henkel  
Pastor

## HYMN #382

*We Give Thee but Thine Own*

## LIVING THE METRO RESPONSE

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

## OFFERTORY

## \*DOXOLOGY

*Old 100th*

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

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Laura Voss

SPECIAL MUSIC Lesley-Ann and Blake Tommey

SERMON A Liberating Response Scott Stearman

HYMN OF COMMITMENT *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

words: Frank von Christierson

*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.*

1. *As those of old their firstfruits brought of vineyard, flock and field to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield, so we today our firstfruits bring, the wealth of this good land: of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.*

2. *A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give, to make our life an offering that all may truly live. The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.*

3. *In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today, to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way. O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.*

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Please join us after the service for Lenten Lunch and Conversation.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**If you need assistance, please find the staff member wearing a black polo shirt.**

**This Week's Host: Brooklyn Lovelace  
This Week's Deacon: Vadim Yakshov  
This Week's Usher: Connie Brown**

## Brown-bag Lenten Lunches Immediately Following the Service Every Sunday of Lent

Lent is a period of 40 days when we reflectively, and in some cases physically, prepare for the Easter celebration. Christians sometimes fast. There is encouragement to look within, to do better, to be recommitted to the dictates of love. Every year we look back to the Israelites in the wilderness for those 40 years, and to Jesus in the desert for 40 days. This year in addition to whatever fast you might or might not choose (giving up chocolate!?) we have the opportunity to "give up" Sunday Brunch and to "take on" a brown bag conversation with your Metro family. From March 10 through April 7 we'll be facilitating 45 minute conversations following the service. Grab a slice, bring a sandwich. We'll have water and cups provided. Each Sunday we'll discuss a particular application of that morning's texts and sermon. These will be conversations aimed at learning from and about each other. We'll begin at approximately 12:30 and end around 1:15. This Sunday, Todd Heifner, our capital project consultant will lead us in a conversation about stewardship.



## Coming Up

March 10

Brown Bag Lunch

March 15

Upstart Creatures Reading

March 17

Fight With Your Art – A Cancer Benefit

March 23

Classical Meets Broadway

March 30

Celebrating Women Composers

April 6-13

Celebrating Women Composers

April 18

SGTC Presents Next Fall

April 19

Maundy Thursday

April 21

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

## Meals and Desserts for LSEP

Desserts and meals are needed for RMM's life skills empowerment programs. If you would like more information about serving in this way, email [livingwell@rmmnyc.org](mailto:livingwell@rmmnyc.org).



## Upstart Creatures Presents The

*Ladies of the Corridor*

Sunday, March 10

Includes a multi-course meal. FREE.



## Fight With Your Art: A Cancer Benefit Cabaret

Friday, March 15, 7:30 – 9:00pm

\$15 suggested donation at the door

100% of the proceeds will benefit the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the foremost cancer research hospitals in the world.

## Classical Meets Broadway

March 17, 3:00pm

\$20 suggested donation at the door

Concerts for Compassion, in collaboration with Metro Baptist Church and Judson Memorial Baptist Church, present a Fundraiser for the New Sanctuary Coalition.

## Celebrating Women Composers

March 23 and March 30, 7:00 – 10:00pm, Q+A to follow

\$20 general admission, \$15 seniors/students/groups of 10+ (cash only)

Presented by Abby London-Crawford

## Let's Elevate! Building Holy Hospitality for the next 35 years!

Since 1984, Metro Baptist Church has carried out life-giving ministries in this vibrant but challenging area of Hell's Kitchen. We've opened our space 24/7 in a building that is over a century old and that is almost hostile to those who are challenged by steps. In an effort to ensure that our ministries, our educational and arts programs, our HK Farm Project (etc.) are able to flourish we've embarked on architectural and financial feasibility studies. Copies of the architect's report are in back. If you'd like to know more about this effort please speak to one of the pastors. Opportunities to be engaged in the financial feasibility will be coming up this month.