



To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and need comfort,
To all who are lonely and need friendship,
To all who are complacent and need disturbing,
To all who sin and need a savior,
To all who are glad and would serve,
This church opens wide its doors.

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

OPENING WORDS

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel
Pastor

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures forever.

PRELUDE

"As the Deer"

Laura Bergquist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dan Henkel

If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,
then you are in the right place.
If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,
then you are in the right place.
If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,
then you are in the right place.
God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.
So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.
With God's help, may it be so.
Let us worship our all-loving God.

PRAYER

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel

HYMN

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back; no turning back.
2. The world behind me; the cross before me;
The world behind me; the cross before me;
The world behind me; the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.
3. Though none go with me, I still will follow;
Though none go with me, I still will follow;
Though none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back; no turning back.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9: 51-62

Lenyangerla (Alen)

INVITATION TO THE ASHES

Rev. Jana Dye

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus said, "Follow me."
And I said, let me get ready.
Jesus said, "follow me."
And I said, just one minute!
Jesus said, "Follow me."
And I said, I'll be there soon!
The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.
Jesus, forgive my delay.
I want to follow you.
Turn my intentions into actions.
Show me the way.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Lent asks,
"How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?"
Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,
regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,
we are not alone.
We are seen and loved by God.
We are held in grace.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please use the language and words most familiar to you or the version below.

**Our creator, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kin-dom, the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

HYMN

"Where He Leads Me"

1. I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
I can hear my Savior calling,
"Take thy cross and follow, follow Me."
[Refrain]

2. I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him through the garden,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
[Refrain]

3. I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
[Refrain]

4. He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
He will give me grace and glory,
And go with me, with me all the way.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Jana Dye

As Lent begins, let's circle up together to bless these days. My friends, I bless you in the complicated space of these days, caught between beginnings and endings, where the dust settles on your forehead, reminding you of your mortality and your belovedness all at once. May you journey through this season with hands capable of holding the grief and the grace that surrounds us.

May you allow the ashes to mark you as a reminder of the strength found in vulnerability, the beauty found in surrender, the death that doesn't get the last word, and the truth that all things end except the everlasting One.

May you remember that you are dust, yes, but that dust is holy, crafted by the hands of the Creator, held in love, formed for good. Let this season invite you into deeper honesty with yourself, to confront what needs healing, to let go of what no longer serves you, and to make room for the new life God is always calling into being.

And may you know, truly know, even if just for a moment, how deeply loved you are, how deeply loved you have always been, and how deeply loved you will always be.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Laura Bergquist

Service Notes

Cover art is *Toward Jerusalem* by Lauren Wright Pittman. Inspired by Luke 9:51-62 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prelude: Words and Music by Martin Nostrum. Arr by Laura B.

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Forgiveness are written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is an Indian folk tune.

"Where He Leads Me" Words by E.W. Blandy. Music by JS Norris.

Benediction is a condensed version of a liturgy written by Sarah Bessey.

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