



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.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

OPENING WORDS

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel
Pastor

PRELUDE

"Morning Prayer"

Laura Bergquist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship is a place to rest.
We breathe deeply here.
We still our aching bones.
We sit in the quiet.
We surround ourselves with music.
Worship is a place to rest.

Worship is a place to grow.
We listen for God's word.
We invite it to challenge us.
We lean in with curiosity.
We ask questions.
Worship is a place to grow.

So come into this space.
Come rest and grow here.
For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.
Let us worship our gracious God.

PRAYER

Laura Bergquist
Deacon

HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Chalice 714

PASSING THE PEACE & SUNG RESPONSE

Congregation

O how He loves you and me; O how He loves you and me;
He gave his life, what more could He give? O how He loves you;
O how He loves me; O how He loves you and me!

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Janice Ollivierre



Welcome Survey

<https://forms.gle/XQuFx98vDEUvyHy>

LENTEN CANDLE LIGHTING

“Slow Growth” Julian and Eliza Richardson
by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

**You are with us in darkness and in light
In desert and in oasis
In waiting and in going
In fasting and in feasting
In giving up and taking in
In sin and in forgiveness
In death and in resurrection
You are with us in darkness and in light**

COVENANT OF CONCERNS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Jana Dye
Associate Pastor

DEACON ORDINATION & INSTALLATION (see attachment)

OFFERTORY

"Waitin' For the Light to Shine"

Shannah Rae



Online Giving

<http://mbcnyc.org/get-involved/give>

DOXOLOGY

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

Luke 13:6-9

Joe Bergquist

SERMON

"Figs?"

Rev. Dr. Troy Messenger

SONG

CLOSING WORDS

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Troy Messenger

POSTLUDE

Laura Bergquist

You are invited to remain for post-service fellowship.

After the service, a camera and mic will be set up so remote and in-person attendees can visit with one another. Refreshments are available in the rear of the sanctuary.

Service Notes

Cover art is *Fig Leafing* by Hannah Garrity. Inspired by Luke 13:6-9 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Prelude: Arranged by Laura Bergquist.

Call to Worship is written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

"For the Fruit of All Creation": Words by Fred Pratt Green. Traditional Welsh melody.

"Waiting' For the Light to Shine": from BIG RIVER. Words and Music by Roger Miller.

Music reprinted by permission, OneLicense.net #A725088.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Metro Midweek Gatherings for Lent

Wednesday, March 26 and Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Join us as we journey through this Lenten season together. In our upcoming midweek gatherings we will be pausing to come together and reflect on what it means to be living in the messy but beautiful in-betweens of this life. Reach out to Pastor Jana (jdye@mbcnyc.org) if you have any questions.



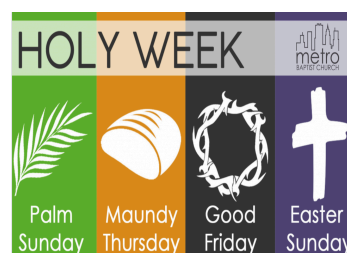
The story of Lent is a story of messy middles. Jesus is on the road, but he's not there yet. Jesus is telling stories, but the crowds don't understand. Jesus is leading a parade, but it's not the one they expected. Jesus is risen, but the disciples can't forget the cross. The story of Lent, the story of our faith, is a story of messy middles and nuanced surprises. So this Lent, as we travel through the Gospel of Luke, we are remembering that faith is more complex

than this or that, black or white, true or false storytelling. This Lent, we are wading into the middle of these sacred texts to find God and to stretch our own understanding beyond the binaries our world so often gives. Welcome to an in-between Lent. This is the light before the dawn.

Holy Week at Metro

The pastors of Metro look forward to commemorating the ritual of Holy Week with you next month. Join us for:

- **Palm Sunday** Service - April 13 at 11:00 AM
- **Holy Tuesday - April 15** at 7:00 PM presentation of *The Gospel of John* by Ken Jennings in person in Metro's sanctuary.
- **Maundy Thursday** Service - April 17 at 6:30PM (hybrid worship but in-person attendees are invited to join us at 6:00 PM for Matzo ball soup.)
- **Good Friday** - April 18 we will be offering different opportunities for reflection and meditation. More details to follow.
- **Easter Sunday** - April 20 at 11:00 AM. Sermon by Pastor Tiffany with a special performance by the Metro Choir. "Breaking of the fast" with special treats will take place before worship.



Metro Baptist Church

410 W. 40th Street, New York, NY 10018 | 212-594-4464

www.mbcnyc.org | mbc@mbcnyc.org

Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries: www.rmmnyc.org

Hell's Kitchen Farm Project: www.hkfp.org

Affiliated and partnered with the Alliance of Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Laura Bergquist	INTERIM WORSHIP LEADER
Chrisaleen Ciro	FOOD JUSTICE COORDINATOR
Rev. Jana Dye	ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel	PASTOR
Lenyangerla (Alen)	SANCTUARY HOST & PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Anita Massengill	WORSHIP LEADER
Cathy McGaughey	FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
Rev. Dr. Troy Messenger	HYBRID WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Aaron Moore	FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR
Janice Ollivierre	RECEPTIONIST



LITANY FOR THE DEACON INSTALLATION OF CAT FERNANDO-RIZZO & SUSAN RUTTER

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel: We are privileged to join with God in recognizing the gifts and leadership of Cat Fernando-Rizzo and Susan Rutter. God is the one who calls each for service as a deacon; we gather today to vocalize and affirm that call. Do you, as children of God created in God's image, answer God's call to participate in ministry here at Metro?

Susan: I do.

Cat: I do.

Rev. Jana Dye: The service of a deacon is not a solitary venture; it is done within the Body of the church. Do we, the congregation and community of Metro, the family and friends of Cat and Susan, acknowledge their gifts and affirm their acceptance of the role of Deacon? Do we promise to encourage them in their ministries to us?

Congregation: We do.

Alan H. Green: God has called you by the voice of the church to serve Christ in a special way. You know who we are and you understand the work we do together. Within our common ministry we recognize some as deacons, remembering that Jesus said: "Whoever among you wants to be great must become the deacon of all, and if an individual wants to be first among you, that person must be the servant of all. So, on behalf of this church, we ask you now:

Will you serve as a deacon in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually rely upon the Holy Spirit for guidance?

Cat: I will.

Susan: I will.

Laura Bergquist: Do you affirm this church's understanding of Baptist faith and practice? Will you be a friend to your fellow servants in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's word and Spirit?

Susan: *I do and I will.*

Cat: *I do and I will.*

Marcus Wilborn: Will you govern the way you live, by following the Lord Jesus Christ, loving neighbors, and working for the reconciliation of the world?

Cat: *I will.*

Susan: *I will.*

Julia O'Brien: Will you seek to serve the people of this congregation and all those we touch with energy, intelligence, imagination, compassion, and the justice of Jesus Christ?

Susan: *I will.*

Cat: *I will.*

Rev. Jana Dye: Do we, the members of this church, accept Susan and Cat as chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to the ministry of Deacon and to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

Congregation: *We do.*

Rev. Tiffany Triplett Henkel: And do we agree to encourage them as they join with our pastors, staff, and deacons in guiding us as we seek to serve Jesus Christ?

Congregation: *We do.*