



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Sunday, March 17, 2024 • 8:00 AM Rite I

## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

### CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Jesse Perkins, *Rector*  
The Rev. Jim Swarhout,  
*Assistant Rector*  
The Rev. Tim Murray, *Deacon*  
The Rev. Elizabeth (Betsy) Ward,  
*Retired Priest Associate*  
The Rev. Ralph Osborne,  
*Retired Priest Associate*  
*The Rev. Judy Heinrich,*  
*Retired Deacon*  
Theresa Halminiak, *Parish*  
*Administrator*  
Sara Torbeck, *Director of Music*  
Jerry Egger, *Organist*  
Kay Lewis, *Junior & Senior High*  
*Youth Ministry*  
Kim Curtis, *Facilities Manager &*  
*Sunday School Director*  
Carol Hebert, *Bookkeeper*  
Caren Hunter, *Director of Little*  
*Angels Christian Preschool*

### VESTRY

Bill Ferry, *Senior Warden*  
Liz Gabis, *Junior Warden*

2025  
Marisa Boynton  
Brant Deichmann  
Ellen Lindeen

2026  
Sam Adams-Lanham  
Wes Kimes  
Lynn Mayberry

2027  
Paul Carrubba  
Amy Hoff  
Jeff Tolle

John Davis, *Treasurer*  
Craig Anderson, *Clerk*



## St. Michael's Welcomes You!

Whether you are visiting with us for the first time today or if St. Michael's is your home, we welcome you and are glad you are joining us for worship. Wherever you might be in your spiritual journey, we invite you to continue to explore a deeper relationship with God and a stronger spiritual life.

### Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m. **Saturday Evening Holy Eucharist Spoken Service** (*Small Chapel*)

### Sunday Worship and Education Schedule

8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist, Rite I**  
9:00 a.m. **St. Michael's Jr. (LiFT)** | Sturtz House (*summer hours vary*)  
10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
10:00 a.m. **Sunday School** | Visit [stmichaelsbarrington.org](http://stmichaelsbarrington.org)  
6:30 p.m. **St. Michael's Sr. High (LiFT)** | Sturtz House (*as scheduled*)

### Things to Remember

- When it is time for Holy Communion, walk up to the altar and stand or kneel at the altar rail.
- A digital version of this bulletin is available by visiting our website at [www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/blog](http://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/blog).

We also live-stream all services to Facebook and the parish website. This provides a way for everyone to worship with us, even if they are not comfortable returning in person. If you come up for communion, you will likely be seen in our online video by those worshipping at home.

Please visit our website at [www.stmichaelsbarrington.org](http://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org) for more information and announcements.

### Contact Information

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## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 8:00 AM | Rite I

#### PRELUDE | Organist selection

*A bell will sound three times, inviting the congregation to stand.*

#### A Penitential Order

*Process in Silence.*

#### OPENING HYMN | Hymn 488 Be thou my vision, *Slane*

#### OPENING ACCLAMATION | BCP 319

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endureth for ever.**

*The Celebrant says:*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*Matthew 22:37-40*

#### THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION | BCP 320

*The Deacon or Celebrant:*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Said in unison.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant Continues:*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### TRISAGION

*Repeat three times:*

*Celebrant:* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

*People:* **Have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING | Jeremiah 31:31-34

*Please be seated.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 51:1-13 | *Miserere mei, Deus*

*Read in unison.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Have mercy on me, O God,<br>according to your loving-<br>kindness;<br>in your great compassion blot<br>out my offenses. | 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall<br>be pure;<br>wash me, and I shall be clean<br>indeed.      |
| 2 Wash me through and through<br>from my wickedness<br>and cleanse me from my sin.  | 9 Make me hear of joy and<br>gladness,<br>that the body you have broken<br>may rejoice.          |
| 3 For I know my transgressions,<br>and my sin is ever before me.  | 10 Hide your face from my sins<br>and blot out all my iniquities.                                |
| 4 Against you only have I sinned<br>and done what is evil in your<br>sight.   | 11 Create in me a clean heart, O<br>God,<br>and renew a right spirit within<br>me.               |
| 5 And so you are justified when you<br>speak<br>and upright in your judgment.   | 12 Cast me not away from your<br>presence<br>and take not your holy Spirit<br>from me.           |
| 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from<br>my birth,<br>a sinner from my mother's<br>womb.                                      | 13 Give me the joy of your saving<br>help again<br>and sustain me with your<br>bountiful Spirit. |
| 7 For behold, you look for truth deep<br>within me,<br>and will make me understand<br>wisdom secretly.                    |  |

## THE SECOND READING | Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;  
as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL | John 12:20-33

*Please stand as able.*

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People:* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON** | The Rev. Jesse Perkins

**THE NICENE CREED** | BCP 326

*Please stand. Said in unison.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

# Prayers of the People

## Form 1

### *Intercessor:*

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.** -

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Paula, our Bishop; Joseph, Archbishop of the Upper Nile Province, and Simon, Bishop of the Diocese of Renk, South Sudan; for Jesse, Jim, Betsy, Ralph, Tim, and Judy, our clergy; and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, Joe, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel on land, on water, in the air or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries: Claire Buckley, Ben Mears, Sophia Younger, Heidi Guthrie, Kate Chan, Linda Thompson, Julia Hoff, Shân Atkins, Whitney Brett, and Joshua Schultz, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have requested our prayers: Miles, The Clark family, Karen, Jackie, Mary Jane and Nancy, Karen, Kristin, Lynda, Emma Rose, the Kean family, Zach and Jenny, Spencer, Meg and Charlie, Sarah and Evelyn, Jeff, Richard, Nancy, Christine, Jeff, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Caden, Sadie, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

Are there others? [PAUSE].

For all whom we remember today, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, especially, Henry Tantillo, Sophia Stewart, Penelope Stewart, Shepard Robinson, Jo Kuffel, Nicholas Johnson, LaVerne Jones, Loin "Mike" Bowen, Thomas Myers, Richard Von Albrecht, and Zoe Blanchard, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of St. Michael and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord our God.**

*Silence.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*



## THE PEACE

*Celebrant:* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*All may greet one another with the Peace of Christ..*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please be seated.*

## The Holy Communion

### THE OFFERTORY

*Thank you for your gifts in support of the church's mission and ministries. The offering plates are in the rear at both doors or offerings may be made online at [stmichaelsbarrington.org](http://stmichaelsbarrington.org).*

### MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY | Burgundy Book 17 Precious Lord, *Thomas Dorsey*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Prayer II | BCP 340

*Please stand as able*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People:* **It is meet and right so to do.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

*Celebrant and People:*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption.

He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom 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.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Celebrant:** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM | BCP 337

**Celebrant:** O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People:** **Have mercy upon us.**

**Celebrant:** O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People:** **Have mercy upon us.**

**Celebrant:** O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

**People:** **Grant us thy peace.**

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS | BCP 337

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to come forward to the altar rail for Communion or a Blessing.*

**Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*Please come forward to receive Communion, receiving the Bread while standing or kneeling at the altar rail. While receiving both the Bread and the Wine is tradition, receiving the Bread alone constitutes full participation in this Holy Communion. (Gluten free Bread available upon request).*

*To also receive the Wine, you may remain at the altar rail to drink from the chalice; please do not dip or intinct the Bread into the Wine. If you prefer, you may instead go to the Wine station to receive in an individual, compostable cup.*

*If you would like a blessing instead, cross your arms and the priest will bless you. If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability [or pandemic], is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth. (BCP 457)*

**MUSIC AT COMMUNION** | WLP 760 O Wheat, whose crushing was for bread, *New Life*

## **POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER**

*Kneel or stand.*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Said by the Celebrant & People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen**

## **THE BLESSING**

Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel and the Celebrant says the following prayer:*

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people; that, rightly observing this holy season, they may learn to know you more fully, and to serve you with a more perfect will; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand as able.*

**CLOSING HYMN** | Hymn 470 There's a wideness in God's mercy, *Beecher*

*Process in silence.*

## **DISMISSAL**

*Deacon:* Let us Bless the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** | Organist

## ***What's in the Sword this week***



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Easter Altar Flower Donations** | If you wish to donate to the Easter Altar Flower display, please mail a check to St. Michael's or drop it off in the office M-F from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM. Donations can also be made at <https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/give> with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

### **CALENDAR AND EVENTS**

- **February 21-March 20** | Stations of the Cross, weekly on Wednesday at 6pm
- **March 10** | Choral Evensong, 5pm
- **March 24** | Palm Sunday, 8am and 10am
- **March 28** | Maundy Thursday, 6:30pm
- **March 29** | Good Friday Service, 12pm
- **March 29** | Good Friday Evening Service, we will be joining the Salem United Methodist Church in Barrington at 7pm.
- **March 30** | Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday Evening, 8pm
- **March 31** | Easter Sunday Services, 9am and 11am
- **March 31** | Easter Egg Hunt following the 11am service.

### **WEEKLY EVENTS**

- **Sundays 10:00am** | In Person Sunday School
- **Sundays 9:10am** | Lent Adult Study with Deacon Tim in the Conference Room
- **Sundays 11:30am** | Lent Adult Forum with The Rev. Ralph Osborne in the Library
- **Tuesdays 9:30am – 11:00am** | Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
- **Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm** | Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study via Zoom
- **Fridays at 6:00 AM** | Men's Fellowship meets in the Community Room

### **MONTHLY EVENTS**

- **Last Tuesday of Every Month** | Prayer Shawl meets in the Library at 6pm
- **Third Wednesday of Every Month** | Book Club meets in the Library at 7pm

**Those for whom prayers have been requested:**

Miles, The Clark family, Karen, Jackie, Mary Jane and Nancy, Karen, Kristin, Lynda, Emma Rose, the Kean family, Zach and Jenny, Spencer, Meg and Charlie, Sarah and Evelyn, Nancy, Jeff, Richard, Christine, Jeff, Sharon, Andy, Marilyn and Pat, Caden, Sadie, Dave, Phyllis, Cameron, Maribeth, Ruth, Brian, Barb and Steve, Patty, and Amy.

<b>Birthdays</b>		<b>Anniversaries</b>	<b>Remembrances</b>	
3/17	Claire Buckley		3/17	Shepard Robinson
3/18	Ben Mears		3/18	Jo Kuffel
3/19	Sophia Younger		3/18	Nicholas Johnson
3/20	Heidi Guthrie		3/19	LaVerne Jones
3/21	Kate Chan		3/19	Loin "Mike" Bowen
3/21	Linda Thompson		3/20	Thomas Myers
3/21	Julia Hoff		3/21	Richard Von Albrecht
3/22	Shân Atkins		3/22	Zoe Blanchard
3/23	Whitney Brett			Penelope Stewart
3/23	Joshua Schultz			Sophia Stewart
				Henry Tantillo

**AT TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*Preaching and Presiding:* The Rev. Jesse Perkins

*Deacon:* The Rev. Tim Murray

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

## Wandering Heart: "Teach me"



### Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

*Digital painting*

When I'm creating a mandala inspired by a text, I'm able to zoom out and see the bigger picture, and the image itself ends up looking like a bird's eye view, which I think is a helpful perspective sometimes. In this mandala, I wanted to follow a person through the process of reproval, forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration as Jesus describes in Matthew 18. In the center, a person is standing alone, isolated, with their arms crossed in a closed-off posture. If you're sinned against, Jesus says to go and "point out the fault when the two

of you are alone" (Matthew 18:15). When you move to the second ring of the mandala, there are pairs of people shaking hands, finding common ground, or at least attempting to. If this doesn't work, then you are to bring more people (one or two more) together to provide counsel and witness. In the third ring of the mandala, two people are engaging with the closed-off person, sharing a way forward. In the next ring hyacinth flowers—which represent sorrow, regret, and forgiveness—stretch, bloom, and grow, bringing beauty into the now open arms of the people in the last ring of the mandala, who are embraced and woven into the community. The person from the center goes from being alone and closed-off to embraced and open.

When I was drawing the figures from the center out, it began to look like a dance. Is this the picture that grace paints? Forgiveness cannot happen in isolation and certainly neither can reconciliation nor restoration. The movement toward wholeness is the movement toward one another.

Perhaps craving more tangibility and practicality, Peter asks how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him, and Jesus says, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22). This piece contains seventy-seven people and flowers to represent the abundance of grace that Jesus calls us into. The gold represents the divine presence of empathy, compassion, grace, and love throughout this dance from isolation toward community, from brokenness toward wholeness, and from guilt and shame toward freedom.

—Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman