



Sunday, March 17, 2024 • 10:00 AM Rite II
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

St. Michael's Welcomes You!

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Jesse Perkins, *Rector*
The Rev. Jim Swarthout,
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*



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
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.

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 for more information and announcements.

Contact Information

The Reverend Jesse Perkins, Rector
jperkins@stmichaelsbarrington.org

The Reverend Deacon Tim Murray
tmurray@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Theresa Halminiak, Parish Administrator
thalminiak@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Kim Curtis, Facilities and Sunday School
kcurtis@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Sara Torbeck, Choir Director
storbeck@stmichaelsbarrington.org

Bill Ferry, Senior Warden
sr-warden@stmichaelsbarrington.org

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 17, 2024 | 10:00 AM | Rite II

PRELUDE | organ

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

THE PENITENTIAL ORDER

Process in silence.

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

The people stand or kneel as able.

OPENING ACCLAMATION | BCP 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.

People: **God's mercy endures for ever.**

The Celebrant continues:

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION | BCP 352

The Deacon or Celebrant:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Said in unison.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant continues:

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

S84 Kyrie Eleison

Plainsong Mode 1, Missa orbis factor, Mass 11 arr. David Hurd



Repeat 3x

Cantor:Ky - ri - e E - - le - i - son.
Choir:Ky - ri - e E - - le - i - son.
Congregation:Ky - ri - e E - - le - i - son.



Repeat 3x

Cantor:Chri - ste E - - le - i - son.
Choir:Chri - ste E - - le - i - son.
Congregation:Chri - ste E - - le - i - son.



Repeat 2x

Choir:Ky - ri - e E - - le - i - son.
Congregation:Ky - ri - e E - - le - i - son.



Cantor:Ky - ri - e - - - E - - - le - i - son

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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*



From *A HymnTune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr. and Kevin R. Hackett. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin. **Antiphon**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight. **Antiphon**

⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb. **Antiphon**

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. **Antiphon**

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities. **Antiphon**

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. **Antiphon**

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.**

GRADUAL HYMN | Burgundy Book 17 Precious Lord, *Thomas Dorsey*

THE GOSPEL | John 12:20-33

Please stand as able.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON | The Rev. Jesse Perkins

THE NICENE CREED

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 became truly human.
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.
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 reasonable 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 Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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.

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY | Steal away to Jesus

DOXOLOGY | Hymn 380, Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow, Old 100th, Verse 3

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Prayer A | Expansive Language

Please stand as able.

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

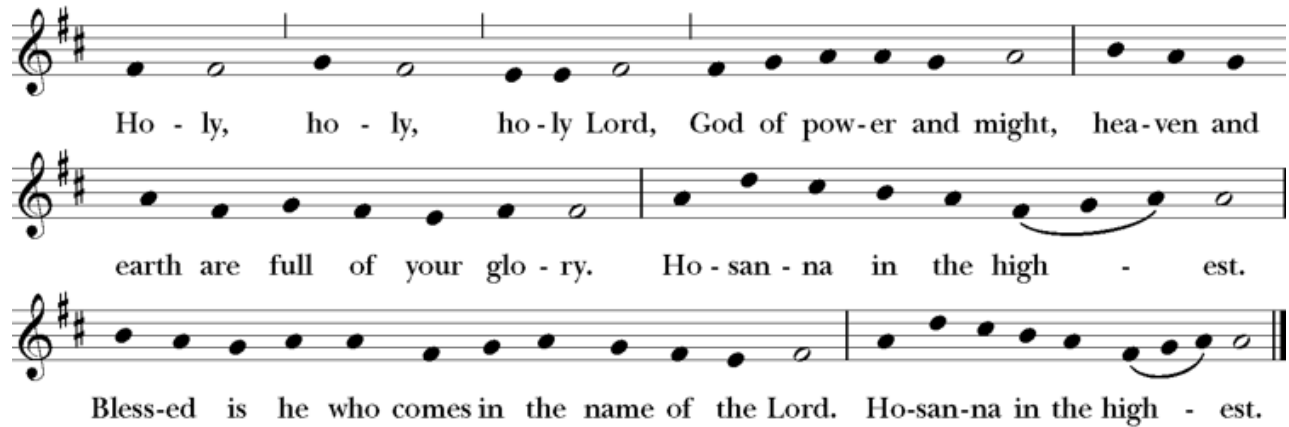
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a proper preface is said.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS | S124, David Hurd



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to lay a hand upon it.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Celebrant and people:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **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.**

ANTHEM S157 | O Lamb of God, *John Merbecke*



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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 thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Christ, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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.

Birthdays

3/17 Claire Buckley
3/18 Ben Mears
3/19 Sophia Younger
3/20 Heidi Guthrie
3/21 Kate Chan
3/21 Linda Thompson
3/21 Julia Hoff
3/22 Shân Atkins
3/23 Whitney Brett
3/23 Joshua Schultz

Anniversaries

Remembrances

3/17 Shepard Robinson
3/18 Jo Kuffel
3/18 Nicholas Johnson
3/19 LaVerne Jones
3/19 Loin "Mike" Bowen
3/20 Thomas Myers
3/21 Richard Von Albrecht
3/22 Zoe Blanchard
Penelope Stewart
Sophia Stewart
Henry Tantillo

AT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Preaching and Presiding: The Rev. Jesse Perkins

Deacon: The Rev. Tim Murray

"Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-704397. . All rights reserved"



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 reproof, 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



© A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG