

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

Welcome

*Passing of the Peace

Chiming of the Hour *(please be seated)*

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: Lord God, we have gathered here in your Spirit,

People: With hearts hungry from our Lenten journey.

Leader: In the midst of our wilderness travels, we yearn for holy refreshment,

People: Through your loving and healing Spirit.

Leader: We yearn now in our time together to experience you,

People: In fresh, new and abundant ways.

Leader: Prepare us now for this time of worship,

People: And may the power and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us.

*Opening Hymn #529

How Firm a Foundation

*Centering Prayer

God of life and love, we invite you to breathe upon us in these moments, so that our parched and barren souls may be revived with your quickening Spirit. Bring to us now, as we wait upon you, your energy, your life and your strength so that we might do your will. Amen.

Children's Message

Ministry of the Word Psalm 51:1-12 insert

Response to the Word *Renew Me, O Eternal Light* by White Sanctuary Choir

***Hymn of Preparation #420** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Sermon "The Enemies Within" Rev. Bates
Text: Luke 11:37-41 (The Message)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Eternal God, Searcher of Hearts, make this moment a starting point for looking deep. Help us peel away the layers of disguise that keep us from truth. Let us see through the shadows of the past so that we may claim your healing light. Let us sift through the self-doubts and midnight worries to discover your abiding presence. Forgive us for avoiding the honest look within and for abandoning the search for truth. Eternal God, stay with us in our wilderness, feed us on your Word and bring us to a clear sense of our call.

(continue to pray in silence)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer #895

Choral Amen

Offering & Offertory

Melissa Chavez, piano

*Doxology #95

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let the gift of grace which has been so lavishly given to us touch our hearts as we give of our gifts. May the needs of others become our needs: their poverty, our poverty; their hunger, our hunger; their longings for a better life, our longings. As we feel, so may we give, always in gratitude for the abundance of grace that is ours through the gift of the life of Christ. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #395

Take Time to Be Holy

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in one God who created us and loves us, still and all.

We believe in Jesus Christ who leads us and calls us to follow.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, present to us in our challenges and changes.

We believe we are the church, called to bring solace to the troubled, hope to the hopeless and love to the lonely.

We believe in the power of prayer, which enables us to live a life of love and service in the grace of God. Amen.

*Benediction

*Postlude

Improvisation on "Shut De Do"

**For those who are able, please stand*