

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day

— Gathering —

PRELUDE

Joshua Allen

WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

OPENING SENTENCES

Liturgist, Kelly Weaver

We have entered the season of Lent, a time to examine our hearts and our lives

and journey with Christ through the suffering of the world.

Let us lift up our souls to our merciful God

and humble ourselves in God's service.

God has marked us as beloved dust

and called us together to worship.

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Kelly Weaver

CONFESSION

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

In the season of Lent, O God, we say lofty words about renewing our spiritual disciplines, journeying with you to the cross, or denying ourselves material wants for the good of the soul. Forgive us, O God, if our actions are in vain: if we are concerned with the good of the soul rather than the good of your people; if we have twisted this season of penitence into a reason for praise or judgment; if we are so preoccupied with the sins of the world that we cannot recognize and confess the sins of our own lives. Forgive us, O God, and wash us in your mercy. Forgive us, O God, and free us to try again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Michele R. Goff

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

— Word —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kelly Weaver

SCRIPTURE

Rev. Michele R. Goff

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Genesis 9:8—17

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Peter 3:18—22

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark 1:9—15

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Learning to Struggle”

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

— Response —

MUSIC

Joshua Allen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kelly Weaver

Out of the ashes, up from the dust we bring our prayers to God, saying:
In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for the church . . .
Bring us through every obstacle and trial
so that we might be a living sign
of the new life you offer to all.
In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for the world . . .
Put an end to war and destruction.
Let the people of every nation
learn your ways of grace and peace.
In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for this community . . .
Help us to share our food with the hungry,
to welcome the homeless, clothe the naked,
and never to hide from neighbors in need.
In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

God of all mercy, we pray for loved ones . . .
Look with healing and compassion
on those who are troubled by sickness or sin.
Deliver them from every evil.
In your steadfast love, O Lord, **have mercy on us.**

Restore in us, O God, the joy of your salvation;
renew and sustain our spirits,
so that we may live according to your will;
through Jesus Christ, our hope and strength. **Amen.**