Prelude and Meditation

The word Lent comes from “lengthen”, the lengthening of days as Winter turns to Spring. As our planet moves into a fresh season, we pay attention to the movement of the Holy One within our lives, or our lives moving within the Holy One. Lent invites people of God to be in wonder about the mystery of faith and our mystical connection to Jesus Christ. Welcome to this moment of word, song and silence.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: In baptism, we know we belong to Christ,
Many: sharing a partnership with God.
One: In baptism, we share Christ’s death,
Many: witnessing the cross in the suffering of our world.
One: We also share Christ’s new life:
Many: in the story of the empty tomb, in our trust of God today.
One: in the water, in the meal,
Many: in our prayer, in our song,
One: in our sure knowings,
Many: in our holy, wondering silences.

The people of God pause for a slow, deep breath.

One: In Lent, we journey with Jesus,
Many: our brother, mentor, friend, and Christ.
One: People of God, the Holy Spirit of Christ is with you.
Many: And also with you.

Since you have been raised with Christ, pursue the things that are holy.

For you have died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 2.12-13; 3.1-3
WITNESS OF OUR NEED

O Tender God, Have Mercy

O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us.

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us.

for you are for us.

PRAYER FOR PURITY

One:  O Holy One,

Many: Creator, Lover and Sustainer of all,  
to you all hearts are open, and all desires known.  
No secrets can be kept from your life within us.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may journey our lives with perfect love.

May our every word, gesture and intention  
be dedicated to Christ’s presence in this world.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
whose life we share.  
Amen.
Reading One

All things have been created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ is before all things
and in Christ all things hold together.

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through Christ
God was delighted to reconcile in holiness
all things.

Colossians 1.16-17, 19-20

A full silence follows.

Meditation Song

Open Unto Me

O - pen un - to me light for my dark - ness.  Light for my dark - ness
O - pen un - to me strength for my weak - ness.  Strength for my weak - ness
O - pen un - to me peace for my tur - moil.  Peace for my tur - moil

O - pen un - to me.  O - pen un - to me light for my dark - ness.
O - pen un - to me.  O - pen un - to me strength for my weak - ness.
O - pen un - to me.  O - pen un - to me peace for my tur - moil.

O - pen un - to me,  O God.
O - pen un - to me,  O God.
O - pen un - to me,  O God.
When you were buried with Christ in baptism,  
you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God.  
And when you were dead in your struggle,  
God made you alive together with Christ.

Since you have been raised with Christ,  
pursue the things that are holy.

For you have died,  
and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

*Colossians 2.12-13; 3.1-3*

A full silence follows.

**Centering Hymn**

Hidden With Christ

Hidden with Christ, hidden with Christ, all of us deep within God's heart.

We are the witnesses of gospel possibility,  
Called from our wandering, and claimed with our history,  
We are the carriers of hope for what the world can be,

loving the world, living in mystery.  
voice of our home, whisper of mystery.  
people of faith, bearing the mystery.
**Reading Three**

One: As God’s chosen ones, holy and loved, we clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, tenderness and patience.

Many: We bear with one another, and in our disagreements, we are on the path of understanding and forgiveness.

One: Just as Christ has forgiven us, we too are free to forgive.

Many: Above all, we clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

One: And may the peace of God rule in our hearts, to which indeed we are called in the one body.

Many: Let us become ever more grateful people.

*Colossians 3.12-15*

A full silence follows.

**Prayers of the Community**

Following a full silence,

One: O Holy One, as beloved of your Holy Spirit that inspires our prayers,

Many: and as partners in ministry with Jesus,

All: we offer you our prayers. Amen.

One: The peace of Christ is with you always.

Many: And also with you.

One: Let us share signs of this peace with one another.
OFFERING

After the offering has been gathered:

One: For all we receive and all we give, we are grateful.
Many: Whether we are giving or receiving, we belong to Christ.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SONG OF THE TABLE

O Christ, Lamb of God

During the Meal, silence may be held,
or simple songs may be sung.
THE BLESSING

One: May this meal strengthen us for the journey and knit us deeply into Christ's life.
Many: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Holy One, Now Let Your Servants Go In Peace

One: O Living One,
    We give you thanks for the gift of your son Jesus Christ in whom we find life.
    As we have been nourished by this meal,
    refresh us now to nourish the world.
    Amen.

The people of God stand as able.

BENEDICTION

One: Now friends,
    clothed in holy love,
    knit into the life of Christ,
    may the peace of God [+ rule in your hearts always.

Many: Amen.
CLOSING HYMN

O Christ, Surround Me

God, be the love to search and keep me;
Bind to myself the Name of Holy,
Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
Walking behind to hem my journey,

Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
Great cloud of witnesses enfold;
Prophets, apostles,
Flashing of lightning, strength of wind;
Depth of the sea to go ing a head to light my way,
And from beneath, a

Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of

now uphold me. O Christ, surround me,
an gels wit ness. O Christ, surround me,
soil of planet: O Christ, surround me,
bove and all ways, O Christ, surround me,
all who know me: O Christ, surround me,

O Christ surround me.
O Christ surround me.
O Christ surround me.
O Christ surround me.
O Christ surround me.

SENDING

Spoken quietly.

One: Go in peace and serve the world.
Many: Thanks be to God.

The people depart quietly.

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