



Order of Worship
February 17, 2021

Welcome

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Greeting

Elsie Seward, James London
Sicilia Stidman, Connor Moore

Reader 1: We are invited—

Into the story, into this place, into this time of worship.

Reader 2: We are invited—

Into reflection, into community, into our own spiritual journeys.

Reader 3: We are invited—

The broken and bruised, the hopeful, the new,
The faithful, the doubting,
The wondering, the waiting.

Reader 4: We are invited—

Because God so loved;
So listen, trust the invitation, and bring your whole self.
All are invited here.

Opening Hymn

Soffly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

UMH 348

Lisa Gibbs-Smith, Lauren Smith, Rusty Smith, Jim Gibbs

Call to Confession

Maggie Moore

(Reader 2)

*Ash Wednesday is a special day because it marks the start of something new.
We are standing at the door of a journey into deeper faith, and God is inviting us
in.*

However, we know that we cannot grow deeper and be transformed without God's help. So as we begin this season, we confess together, asking for God's participation in this new beginning. We are asking God to hold open the door. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Dakota Bannach, Sadie Kerby

Reader 1: Holy God—

We know that you are near,

for you are always here, gathered among us, just a breath away.

And despite knowing your nearness, we still stumble over ourselves, unsure of how to pray.

Reader 2: Bring our hearts into the room.

Reader 1: So often we talk to you like a stranger,

praying prayers of small talk about the weather and surface level concerns.

We keep genuine fear and doubt tucked into corners, out of sight, out of mind.

Reader 2: Bring our hearts into your presence.

Reader 1: And so often we try to think our way to you,

as if we could use logic or our minds alone to explain your great unknown.

We forget what we knew as children; we forget how to feel our way to you.

Reader 2: Bring our hearts into your presence.

Reader 1: And too regularly, we limit our experience of you to one hour a

Sunday,

missing your constant invitation into the holiness all around us.

Forgive us. Guide us.

Reader 2: Bring our hearts into your presence.

Reader 1: We are here, God. We want to begin again.

Reader 2: Bring our hearts into your presence. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Friends, whether you are standing at the door of a deeper faith journey,

unsure of what comes next,

or running your way through that threshold,

you are claimed, forgiven, and loved by God.

Again and again, we are forgiven.

**Again and again, we are loved.
Again and again, we are invited in.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.**

Scripture

Matthew 6:1-21

Sam Brown

A reading concerning the spiritual practice of Almsgiving

⁶ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

A reading concerning the spiritual practice of Prayer

Lauren Smith

⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[b]

⁷ "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ "Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.^[c]

¹² And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,^[a]
but rescue us from the evil one.^[a]

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

A reading concerning the spiritual practice of Fasting

Sophia Stidman

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

A reading concerning Treasures

Campbell Petersen

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust^[a] consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust^[a] consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Sermon

Again & Again: We're Invited In

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Hymn

Change My Heart, O God

TFWS 2152

Mike Bannach, Lisa Gibbs-Smith

Affirmation of Faith

Elijah Gilliam

Reader: Would you join me in the Affirmation of Faith:

We believe in an inviting God
who invites the poor and the sick,
the outcast and the lonely,
the immigrant and the refugee,
the awkward and the abrasive,
the young and the innocent.

We believe God invites the best and the worst—
in all of us.

We believe God invites us to:
a life of faith,
a crowded table,
a messy church,
a deeper truth,
a resilient joy,
a place to belong,
a family among strangers,
a world that is just,
and a love that knows no bounds.

We believe this invitation exists for all people.

We believe this invitation exists for us.

And when we miss the call or ignore the invite,

we believe that God invites us again.

Thanks be to God for that invitational Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Just As I Am

UMH 357

Benediction

Rev. Tracy McNeil Wines

Postlude

O Gott, du Frommer Gott

Brahms

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- Scripture commentary resource by Rev. T. Denise Anderson
- Sermon Guide by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
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348 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,
 4. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
 pass - ing from you and from me; shad - ows are gath - er - ing,
 prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 death - beds are com - ing, com - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain

Come home, come home; you who are
 Come home, come home;

INVITATION

wea-ry, come home; ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Change My Heart, Oh God

Eddie Esponosa

Change my heart, Oh God make it ev-er true

Change my heart, Oh God may I be like You

You are the pot - ter I am the clay

mold me and make -me, this is what I pray

Fine

D.C. al Fine

357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea,
 2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4. Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,
 6. Just as I am, thy love un - known

but that thy blood was shed for me,
 to rid my soul of one dark blot,
 with many a con - flict, many a doubt,
 sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;
 hath bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;

and that thou bidst me come to thee,
 to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 yea, all I need in thee to find,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 now, to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

Refrain

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.