

Finding Hope in a House Divided and a World on Fire

A Midweek Prayer Liturgy

based on writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Week 1 - March 12, 2025

Welcome to worship! Lent is a time of the church year when Christians are invited to enter a period of reflection on our faith and how faith can guide our journey through life. As Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we hear the words of the prophet Joel encouraging us to “Return to God with all our hearts.” These words describe the theme of Lent and invite us to delve deeper into our life of faith.

During our time of worship each Wednesday, we will hear the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer penned during his faithful journey through life and death.

Candles are available to light at any point throughout the service as you feel moved to pray or to remember a loved one. Those who are joining worship from home are also invited to light candles.

**Bold indicates congregational responses.*

Opening Sentences - from Letters and Papers from Prison (528)

By powers of good so wondrously protected,

we wait with confidence, befall what may.

God is with us at night and in the morning

and oh, most certainly on each new day.

Hymn - By Gracious Powers.....ELW 626



1 By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us
5 By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tect - ed,



and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing come what may,
still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
with bit - ter suf - f'ring, hard to un - der - stand,
the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,
so qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,



we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion,
we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling
we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through
we live each day in hope, with you be - side us,



and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
and go with you through ev - 'ry com - ing year.

Text: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906–1945; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: TELOS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
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Psalmody - from *Prayer Book of the Bible* (21)

Who prays the psalms? David (Solomon, Asaph, etc.) prays, Christ prays, we pray. We—that is first of all the entire community in which alone the vast richness of the Psalter can be prayed, but also finally every individual insofar as that person participates in Christ and [their] community and prays their prayer. David, Christ, the church, I myself and wherever we consider all of this together we recognize the wonderful way in which God teaches us to pray.

Psalm 8 (*Read responsively.*)

¹O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,**

mortals that you care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,

and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;**

you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen,

and also the beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,**

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

⁹O LORD, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hymn - Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.....ELW 808

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
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Reading - John 1: 1-5, 14-19

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reflection - from Life Together (75)

The first service one owes to others in the community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of our love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God's Word, but also lends us God's ear. We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them.

Silence for reflection.

Who Am I? - from Letters and Papers from Prison (448-449)

Who am I? They often tell me,
I come out of my cell
Calm and cheerful and poised
Like a squire from his manor.

Who am I? They often tell me,
I speak with my guards
Freely and friendly and clear,
As though I were the one in charge.
Who am I? They also tell me,
I bear days of calamity
Serenely, smiling and proud,
like one accustomed to victory.

Am I really what others say of me?
Or am I only what I know of myself?

Restless, yearning, sick, like a caged
bird,
struggling for life breath, as if I were
being strangled,
starving for colors, for flowers, for
birdsong,
thirsting for kind words, human
closeness,

shaking with rage power lust and
pettiest insult,
helplessly fearing for friends so far
away,
too tired and empty to pray, to think,
to work,
weary and ready to take my leave of
it all?

Who am I? This one or the other?
Am I this one today and tomorrow
another?
Am I both at once? Before others, a
hypocrite
and in my own eyes a pitiful,
whimpering weakling?
Or is what remains in me like a
defeated army,
Fleeing in disarray from victory
already won?

Who am I? They mock me, these
lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, thou knowest me; O
God, I am thine!

Prayers - adapted from Letters and Papers from Prison (174-175)

God, be gracious and help us.
Give us strength to bear the pains of the world.
Do not let fear rule over us.
Give tender care to those we love,
Protect them from all evil and all danger.

Merciful God,
Forgive us everything in which we have sinned
Against you and others.
We trust in your grace
And commit our lives entirely into your hand.
We are with you, and you are with us, o God
We await your salvation and your kingdom.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing - from Letters and Papers from Prison (495)

Not always doing and daring what's random, but seeking the right thing,
Hover not over the possible, but boldly reach for the real.
Not escaping to thought, in action alone is found freedom.
Dare to quit anxious faltering and enter the storm of events,
carried alone by your faith and by God's good commandments,
then true freedom will come and embrace your spirit, rejoicing.
Amen.

Dismissal

Who is Christ for us, today?
The outcasts, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed and reviled, the suffering.
Go in peace to be with them.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY

Director of Music Ministries/Organist:Alan L. Hair
Reader: Lynn Budgeon
Livestream:..... Kirk Sponaugle

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Referenced Works:

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Works - Reader's Edition](#), Fortress Press, 2015

[Psalms: The Prayer Book of the Bible](#), Broadleaf Books, 2022

Scripture references are from the NRSVue.