

Sub-theme: “Heralding Jesus Christ as the “Way, the Truth and the Life”

Text: John 14:6-12

SHORT REFLECTION

Every believer and follower of Jesus Christ affirms that the Holy Bible is a gift from God that is a faithful and inspired witness to God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ as stated in our UCCP Statement of Faith. “The word, Bible comes from an old Latin word, *Biblos*, which simply means books.” It is a gift for us Christians because it’s not just a collection of books but a written witness to the very word of God and proof of God’s manifestation in history and in our life.” (Understanding the Bible)

To convince people to have that faith- to believe in one God, was a long long journey for all who are called to spread the Good News during the time of the early Christians. The story itself of the Bible was a very rich journey of faith. As the book Understanding the Bible says, the Bible did not start as a written material. It started with the life story of a wondering people whose strong faith in God upheld them in their struggles. The word of God is clothed by human words as these people individually or corporately retold their experiences of God’s presence in their lives from generation to generation.”

Having heard and received the good news of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer God, let the Word that was spoken before continue today, tomorrow, and the days ahead.

To continue heralding the fullness of life in Jesus Christ, let our faith and work as a Church be founded on the life and teachings as witnessed by the believers in the Bible and bear the truth of God’s message. “The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart.” (Hebrew 4:12 Good News Bible)

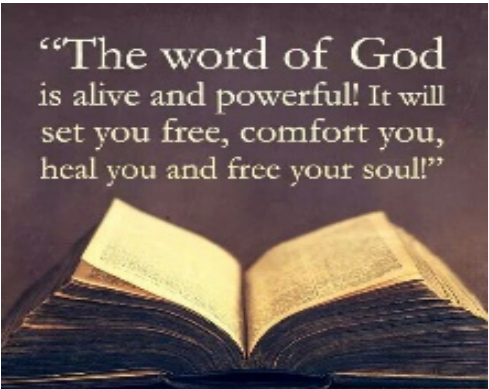
Notes for Worship Preparation/Symbols to Use

- Bible – congregation bring their own Bible to be offered during worship
- Prepare spaces in the altar where Bible will be offered (make instructions before the worship begins)

THE LITURGY

GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WORDS TO PONDER:



4th Article of UCCP Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE

In the Holy Bible as a faithful and inspired witness to God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL (all worship leaders should bring their own Bible)

PROCESSIONAL SONG

LIGHTING OF THE CHIRST CANDLE (Candle is lighted as a symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ)

READING OF THE BIBLE (Bible in the altar will be opened by scripture reader and read Psalm 119: 105-108)

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.

¹⁰⁷ I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸ Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

Choral response: "Praise the Lord (2x) Let the earth hear God's Word,
 Praise the Lord (2x) Let the children rejoice,
 O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
 and give Him the Glory great things God has done."

THE ACT OF PRAISE

✠ **CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 78:1-4 / Psalm 16:7-8,11 / Psalm 9:1 Good News version)**

Liturgist: Listen, my people, to my teaching, and pay attention to what I say. I am going to use wise sayings and explain mysteries from the past, things we have heard and known, things that our ancestors told us.

(all worship leaders will put their Bibles on the altar)

People: We will not keep them from our children; we will tell the next generation about the Lord's power and great deeds and the wonderful things God have done.

(UCM will bring their own Bible to the altar, then CWA, and CYAF subsequently)

Liturgist: I praise the Lord, because God guides me, and in the night my conscience warns me. I am always aware of the Lord's presence; God is near, and nothing can shake me.

(CYF and children will bring their own Bible to the altar)

People: And so I am thankful and glad, and I feel completely secure, because God protects me from the power of death. I have served God faithfully, and will not abandon me to the world of the dead.

ALL: You will show me the path that leads to life; Your presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure Forever. I will praise you, Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all the wonderful things you have done.

*Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life; Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.*

Chorus: *Beautiful words, wonderful words,
wonderful words of life. (2x)*

*Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life; sinner, wake to the loving call,
wonderful words of life; All so freely given, our sure hope of heaven. (chorus)*

*Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all,
wonderful words of life; Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever.*

✠ INVOCATION

- Liturgist

Choral Response: “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD LET US HUMBLE OURSELVES AND CONFESS OUR SINS

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Liturgist: “If you hear God’s voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God ...” (Hebrew 3:7b) My friends, be careful that none of you have a heart so evil and unbelieving that you will turn away from the living God. Instead, in order that none of you be deceived by sin and become stubborn, you must help one another every day, as long as the word “Today” in the scripture applies to us. (Hebrew 3:12-13) Let us all be humble in confessing our sins in the presence of our God.

The song that prepares our mind and heart: “If I Have wounded any Souls Today” HFJ #66

If I have wounded any soul today, If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own willful way, Dear Lord, forgive!

If I have uttered idle words or vain, If I have turned aside from want or pain,
If I have offended others thru the strain, Dear Lord, forgive.

Forgive the sins, I have confessed to you; Forgive the secret sins I do not know;
O guide me, love me, where’er I go, Dear Lord, forgive.

SILENT MOMENT OF CONFESSION

(God is now listening to us let’s confess our sins)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON

Minister: God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

Song of affirmation of God’s Steadfast Mercy: “The Steadfast Mercy of God” HFJ #40

(in bisaya “Ang Kalooy sa Ginoo”)

The steadfast mercy of God has the wideness of the sea, God’s fairness and sense of justice are more than liberty. The grief and pain deep in our hearts God, in mercy knows and feels, Human frailties and our weakness in God’s mercy cast aside.

The blessed love of God, overflowing without cease. Springing from the depths of compassion, God’s heart embracing our pain. If we love God to the fullest and we trust in

the Living Word, we would have a life filled with gladness. Our God be glorified!

GREETINGS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

OFFERING OUR CONCERNS THROUGH COMMUNITY PRAYER

Song-Response: “God will Make a Way”

*God will make a way. Where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see.
He will make a way for me. He will be my guide. Hold me closely to His side.
With love and strength for each new day. He will make a way, He will make a way.*

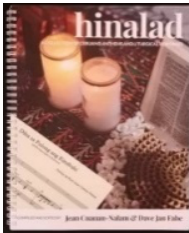
THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

👤 THROUGH SCRIPTURE READING John 14:6-12

Congregation Response: “Thy word is the lamp into my feet and the light unto my path. (2x)
*When I feel afraid and think I’ve lost my way,
still you’re there right beside me and nothing will I fear as
long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
Thy word is the lamp into my feet and the light unto my path .”*
or

Congregational Response: “Bulahan Ka”
(Hinalad : A collection of Cebuano anthems and Liturgical Responses
Compiled and Edited By: Jean Cuanan-Nalam & Dave Jan Fabe)

Bulahan ang namati sa Pulong sa Dios
Bulahan ang nagtuman sa Pulong sa Dios
Bulahan ang namati, namati ug nagtuman
Bulahan ang nagtuman sa Pulong sa Dios
Bulahan ka! Bulahan ka!



THROUGH SONG
THROUGH MEDITATION

THE ACT OF GIVING AND COMMITMENT

CALL TO OFFERING

Liturgist: “ And you also became God’s people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put His stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised.” (Ephesians 1:13) Now let us offer to the source of wisdom and understanding that we may walk in His path with the light of God’s Word. May we continue to offer our time, talent, and life for His glory.

GIVING OF OFFERINGS
OFFERTORY SONG

👤 Doxology

“Bless thou the gift our hands have brought, Bless, thou the work our hearts have planned;
Ours is the faith the will the thought; The rest, O God, is in thy hand.”

or

“Halad, Dawata O Dios”

Pulong:DivillajynUrsos,Huni:JeanCuanan-Nalam,Duyog:GinaRaakin

Halad dawata, O Dios

Among ibalik Kanim

Panalangin napahimuslan sa tanan

Ug padayong mahimong instrumento

Among kinabuhi sa buluhaton.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Liturgist or Deacon

HYMN OF FAITH

“Your Living Word, O Savior” HFJ # 352

Words & Music: Elena G. Maquiso, 1969; Eng. Transl. Feliciano Ursos, 2001

1. Your living Word, O Savior, is light unchanging ever,
It gives us full assurance, our strength and joy forever.
2. When hardships come upon us, Your word sustains, empowers;
Your voice we hear above the storms, speaking from the Scriptures.
3. Ready we are to listen, Your call ignore no longer,
Word from the sacred writings, words of truth and power.
4. May we discern your teachings in our daily living
From the Holy Bible, your love to us revealing.

CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: People of God “continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe. You know who your teachers were, and remember that ever since you were a child, you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”
(2 Timothy 3:14)

People: Now we are ready to proclaim;

We Believe

That the Holy Bible is a faithful and inspired witness to God’s self-revelation in Jesus Christ and in history to illumine, guide, correct and edify believers in their faith and witness.

Pastor: “May the power of God come upon us. May the wisdom of Jesus Christ encourage us,
May the witness of the Holy Spirit accompany us, So that we may continue
sharing the Good News that we are all one in Christ.”

Congregational Response

“My Word I Give Unto You”

(Tune of “My Peace I Give Unto You” with words revised to fit the theme)

“My WORD I give unto You.

It’s the WORD that the people cannot give.

It’s the WORD that people cannot understand. “WORD” to know,

WORD” to share. My “WORD” I’ll give it all of you.”

Postlude
Recessional

References:
UCCP Hymnal of a Faith Journey
The Book of Common Worship
(Hinalad: A collection of Cebuano anthems and Liturgical Responses
Compiled and Edited By: Jean Cuanan-Nalam & Dave Jan Fabe
Bible NIV & Good News Bible
Understanding the Bible – Rev. Lydia N. Niguidula

The liturgy was prepared by Rev. Lilibeth Damiao of ACS–SEMJA

<i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	<i>February 19, 2023</i>
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Biblical Text: Matthew 17:5

Reflection:

What was the importance of the Transfiguration of Jesus?

In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.

THE LITURGY

PRELUDE

CANDLE LIGHTING

PROCESSIONAL

SONGS OF PREPARATION C/o CYF

CALL TO COMMUNITY *(inspired by Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36, 2 Peter 1:16-18)*

Liturgist: Beyond our busyness, above the cold winter floor, there is a glory rising born of heaven and reaching out to each one of us,

Congregation: **A light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who we are that transfigures the world,**

Liturgist: That transforms darkness into hope, that brings life from across where old life ends and new life is born,

Congregation: **In glory Jesus meets us here, raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain carrying the weight of our humanity to the heights of heavens glory.**

ALL: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

+HYMN OF PRAISE

“Crown Him with Many Crowns “

(https://youtu.be/YuMh_ept-Js)

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

3 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

+INVOCATION
God of all ages, we greet you as we are gathered to praise you today. Challenge us that we may see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity in the love of all creation, and for the reign of a just and a caring society. Reign in us with your Holy Spirit, Amen.

GREETINGS/LIFE AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Fellowship Song

“What a Perfect Joy “

HFJ,53

(<https://youtu.be/DXh9FOTjXWg>)

What a perfect joy in our hearts today,
when we always walk and live with our God.
All the darkness of life will dis-appear in Jesus who is light.
Rejoicing always, fulfilled our gladness, our hearts refreshed,
When we are with our God.

What a perfect joy in our hearts today when we love and serve our God,
All creations praises and bless with joy, glorifying Jesus Christ.

Despite our hardships, we don't regret, we are light hearted
When we are with our God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Liturgist: **Let us draw near to God who is the giver of all grace and the one who can forgive our sins.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy God, we confess that we do not trust You fully. We put our hope in worldly gain and in human promises, and find ourselves defeated and lost when things fall apart.

You have given us a love more fully than anything we could experience in this world but we do not seek it, we do not hold on to it, and we look to our own means of assurance and security.

Forgive us.

Call us back to You that we may put our trust in You and not be afraid.
May we hear the words so clearly as the disciples did on the day of the Transfiguration;
may we rise up, and listen to your “beloved Son” and “go down” serving the people in your name.
In the name of Jesus Christ, who loves us and offers us forgiveness, we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Minister: You are God's Beloved; with you, God is well pleased
You are renewed and restored. You are forgiven and loved.
You are a new creation in Christ, everything old has passed away;
See, everything is becoming new. Go and share the good news of God's love. Amen.

Congregational response “Thank You, Lord, for Saving My Soul” (<https://youtu.be/bHXaTurXV-M>)

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; Thank you, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me, Thy great salvation so rich and free, Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Church Elder

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

-Through Reading of the Text
Congregational Response “Praise be to God”

-Through Song
-Through the Spoken Word

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Call to Offering

Liturgist: Let us offer to God gifts from the abundance provided to us, offering not just what is in our wallets and purses, but also in our hearts as we continue to be part of the establishment of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Offertory Song

“With Gifts that Differ by Your Grace” HFJ,245

(<https://youtu.be/ZV12K42Z47U>)

+Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” HFJ,94

Praise God the source of life and birth;

Praise God the Son who came on earth

Praise God the Spirit, Holy Flame;

All glory, honor to God’s name, Amen.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanks

Deacon 1: WHAT we bring before you are our monies, O God, a portion of our life's earnings. With them we offer our well-meaning purposes, our vague desires, our confusion about life, our understanding of Your will, our sinful selves. Make them worthy of Your blessings for we offer them with grateful hearts. Amen.

Deacon 2: WE gladly give back to You, O Creator God, what You have entrusted to us. Gladly we offer to You ourselves for Your blessing. Use us and our gifts, dear God, in the work of proclaiming Your love to all peoples. Through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Deacon 3: TAKE our gifts from our hearts and bless them by the Spirit of Christ, that men and women may know Your love is alive, and find hope. Protect from temptation all who handle these dedicated funds. Restrain greedy recipients. Hasten the day when Christ's spirit shall reign in the hearts of all people. Amen.

+HYMN OF COMMITMENT**“Shine Jesus Shine”**

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory,
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire,
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me (cho).

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me. (cho).

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Response (singing) : Chorus: Shine on me, shine on me Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory, Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire, Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.

POSTLUDE/RECESSIONAL

(At this sign +, those who are able may rise)

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Sources:

~ written by Rev. Rob Smith, Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church, Apple Valley, MN. Posted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2017/02/call-to-worship-for-transfiguration.html>
-Discipleship Ministries

-UCCP Hymnal of Faith Journey

-From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The liturgy was prepared by Rev. Marcela Sacayle, National Coordinator for LLCDDM-ECD

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Theme: “Acknowledging the Brokenness Within.”
Lectionary Readings: Psalm 51:1-17; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Notes For Worship Preparation

For a more creative celebration, use the symbols of worship available resources within the church vicinity. The following are the important symbols of worship:

- **Cross-** Symbol of Christian faith and a reminder of Christ’s salvific grace
- **Bible-** The symbol of our faithful and inspired witness to God’s self-revelation. It is also the foundation of our prophetic witness and proclamation of the good news.
- **Christ Candle-** the symbol of Christ light and warmth in serving God’s people.
- **Leaves-** gather some fresh leaves and dried leaves. Make a cycle of leaf at the center of the chancel and make sure that it is visible to the congregation. This symbol is a reminder that we came from dust and to dust shall we return. See picture below.



- **Ashes-**another symbol that can be used to remind us that we came from dust and to dust we shall return. This ashes can be imposed to the members forehead/hand as part of the liturgical celebration.

Reflection

Ash Wednesday is one of the most solemn days of the church year. This liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline climaxing on Maundy Thursday. The mood is penitential and reflective on our baptismal faith and life. The organ is silent before and after worship. Worshipers are asked to keep reverent silence before

the service and leave the service in silence. There will be no greeting at the door by the pastor. Originally, Lent was the time when candidates for Holy Baptism were intently preparing to be baptized at the Easter Sunday. We, too, in this season of Lent prepare ourselves to remember our Baptism at Easter as we ritually “pass over” with Jesus from death to new life. During this Lenten season will remember Jesus’ Baptism, His anointing with the Holy Spirit, and His words in Luke 4 – that He was anointed to show God’s love and mercy. As His people – hearing Him proclaim God’s Word and being God’s Word as Prophet; seeing Him sacrifice Himself on a cross and know that He intercedes for us as Priest; and knowing that we live under Him as King in righteousness and purity – we will be reminded of our work of mercy.

Today, worshipers will have the opportunity to receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of acknowledging the brokenness within and also remind us to enter into a moment of penitence and baptismal remembrance. The ashes are prepared by burning palm branches from last Palm Sunday. In a dramatic way, their use suggests God’s judgment and condemnation of sin, our frailty and total dependence on God, and humiliation and repentance. The words spoken as ashes are imposing, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” were first spoken to Adam after his fall into sin. We are forcefully reminded of the words of the committal in the Christian Burial service, “... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleaning agent. Thus, ashes imposed in the shape of a cross symbolize both judgment and baptismal cleansing.

THE LITURGY

THE ACT OF PREPARATION

(AS YOU ENTER THE CHURCH FOR WORSHIP PLEASE OBSERVE SILENCE AND AVOID TALKING WITH EACH OTHER TO FULLY EXPERIENCE A MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE OF THE ASH WEDNESDAY.)

SILENT MOMENT OF MEDITATION

“The ashes mean I’m a sinner. The cross means I have a Savior.”
– Fr. Mike Schmitz

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Nearer, My God, to You” HE,343 [Prayerful]

Nearer, my God, to you, nearer to you.
I’ll bear the cross as Christ calls me to do and pray each day anew:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

When I am wandering as Jacob did,
And in the deepest night the oath is hid, my dreams will bring me , too.
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

Let Jacob’s ladder fill the sky above,
And angels carry down the faith and love to keep this goal in view:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

Then, waking from the night to morning air by Bethel’s stone,
I’ll know you heard my payer, and how my yearnings grew:
Nearer my God, to you, nearer my God, to you, nearer to you.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

THE ACT OF CONFESSION

†RESPONSIVE READING [PSALM 51:1-5]

Liturgist: *Have mercy on me, O God, in your greatness; according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.*

People: Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

Pastor: For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

People: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight

ALL: So that you are justified in sentence and in righteous in your judgement.

†HYMN OF CONFESSION “I Am Yours, O Lord” [HFJ,283]

I am Yours, O Lord, I have heard Your voice,
And it told Your love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
Drawn to you eternally.

**Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To the cross where You have died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord,
To Your precious, bleeding side.**

O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Your throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with You, my God
I commune as friend with friend!

Consecrate me now to Your holy work,
By the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
let your will be done, not mine.

There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest eternally.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven. We have failed to serve others as Christ has served us. We have forgotten that you want us to be your hands and feet of mercy.

Pastor: To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turns to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in God’s sight.

People: We fail to share with vigor and enthusiasm the faith that is in us. We neglect prayer and worship. We often act with prejudice and contempt toward people who differ from us, rather than considering that they, like us, are objects of your mercy.

Pastor: God shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth: love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in God’s path to birth, before God on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go; and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

People: We have been impatient as we wait for Your will to be done. We have sought to satisfy our own appetites by exploiting others. We envy those more fortunate than ourselves. Instead of seeking your peace we delight in conflict.

Pastor: Kings shall fall down before Him and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing. To Him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend; His kingdom still increasing, a

kingdom without end.

People: We confess to You, O Lord that we have hoarded our gold and offering and have been unwise and foolish in our management of time in your service. Our prayers are erratic and selfish, and we have sought our kingdoms and not yours. For these and all other sins of thoughts and desires, of words and actions, we ask your forgiveness and your mercy.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S MERCY AND GRACE

Pastor: Our Parent God, You do not desire the death of sinners, but rather You call us to turn from our wicked ways and live life according to the ways of Your Son Jesus our Christ. You have had mercy upon us. You graciously forgive our sins through Your gracious and loving Son Jesus Christ. You strengthen us by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives according to Your will, and keep us in Your grace to eternal life by the life we live in the Kingdom of Grace under our merciful Savior. You Promise us forgiveness through your Anointed One. Bless us for Jesus sake and in His name – Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You love all that You have created and You forgive the sins of those who come to You with humble and contrite hearts.

People: Create in us clean and honest hearts, so that, as we repent of our sins, we may receive full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

“SANTO, SANTO, SANTO” HFJ,73

Santo, Santo, Santo, mi Corazon te adora!
Mi Corazon te sa bedecir: Santo eres Senior.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

“Wonderful Words of Life” HFJ,358

Sing them over again to me
Wonderful words of life
Let me more of their beauty see
Wonderful words of life
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty

Refrain:

Beautiful words, wonderful words

Wonderful words of life

Beautiful words, wonderful words

Wonderful words of life

THE SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 20-6:10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

“Wonderful Words of Life” HFJ,358

Sweetly echo the Gospel call

Wonderful words of life
Offer pardon and peace to all
Wonderful words of life
Jesus, only Saviour, sanctifying forever.

Refrain:
Beautiful words, wonderful words
Wonderful words of life
Beautiful words, wonderful words
Wonderful words of life.

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16,21

Pastor: The Words of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM SERMON

INVITATION TO BE MERCIFUL AS OUR SAVIOR LEADS US

Pastor: Dear ones in Christ, it was the custom in the early Church to prepare for the suffering and death of Christ on Good Friday and for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord with special worship and acts of repentance and faith. Believers were invited to increase their prayer, to fast, and to increase their private meditation. Today, and throughout the Lenten season, we will be reminded of the message of pardon and absolution proclaimed in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The proclamation of Law and Gospel on the Lord's Day, and in special Lenten services, is intended to remind us of our need to renew our repentance and grow in our faith, and be the merciful people Christ has prepared us to be. I invite you to observe this season of Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, by reading God's holy Word, and by giving of your substance as God leads you to special ministries of mercy which you will learn about. To begin this journey of repentance, and as a reminder of our mortal nature, let us now humble ourselves before the Lord, our Maker and Redeemer.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time.)

[The minister imposes ashes on the forehead/hand with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead/hand at the time of Baptism — with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The congregation remains silent.]

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND LIFE

CALL TO OFFERING

As we have received the reminder that we are dust and we will return to dust, let it be a reminder also that we have received the gifts of God's mercy and grace. Therefore, let us give back to God now our thanksgiving offering.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY SONG/MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

(celebration of the Lord's supper may be optional)

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor: We believe that all people are the children of God, and therefore have worth and dignity.

People: All are welcome to share in this holy meal, without regard for human divisions of race, sex, sexuality, class or creed.

Pastor: As we prepare to follow the example of Jesus in sharing this bread and wine, let us affirm our faith. Sisters and brothers, let us dedicate ourselves anew to live in such a way that justice may roll down like waters, that peace may become real, that the dignity of all persons may be manifest.

People: Let us make a covenant with one another and seek to make a new beginning. We unite to resist the powers of death. Before us today are set life and death. We choose life that we and our children may live.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Let Us Break Bread Together” HFJ,258

Words and Music: African-American spiritual, 19th century

Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees,
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
Let us drink wine together on our knees,
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees,
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

THE INSTITUTION

THE CONSECRATION

THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THE PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Pastor: Let us eat of this bread in remembrance of Christ; and may the life which was in Him be in us also. Take and eat this bread in remembrance of Christ who said, "This is my body, which is broken for you: this do, in remembrance of me."

SILENT PRAYER

Pastor: Let us drink of this cup in remembrance of Christ's blood that is shed for our sins. Take this cup, drink it, in remembrance of Christ who said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, may we overflow with thanksgiving for who you are, for all you have done, and for all you have yet to do. May we remember the taste of this meal in our mouths-how nourishing and sweet it is-in both good and difficult times. With your breath in our lungs, you have prepared us to be your witnesses in this world. To you be all the Glory. Amen.

THE ACT OF SENDING AND BLESSING

†CLOSING HYMN

“Living for Jesus” HFJ,289

Living for Jesus a life that is true,
Striving to please him in all that I do,
Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free,
This is the path way of blessing for me.

**Refrain: O Jesus Lord and Savior, your humble child I’ll be;
For you, in your atonement, You gave Yourself for me.
I have no other savior; God’s love to me you’ve shown.
My life my all, I’ll give for You, O Christ, For You alone.**

Living for Jesus, who died in my place,
Bearing on Calv’ry my sin and disgrace,
Such love constrains me to answer his call,
Follow his leading and give Him my all. (Refrain)

Living for Jesus, wherever I am,
Doing each duty in his holy name,
Willing to suffer affliction or loss,
Deeming each trial a part of my cross. (Refrain)

PASTORAL PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace (*Numbers 6:24-26*).

People: Amen.

RESPONSE

“Living for Jesus” HFJ,289

**Refrain: O Jesus Lord and Savior, your humble child I’ll be;
for you, in your atonement, You gave Yourself for me.
I have no other savior; God’s Love to me you’ve shown.
My life my all, I’ll give for You, O Christ, For You alone.**

RECESSIONAL

The liturgy was prepared by Ptr. Joshua Job Salva of CMAC–NWMJ

<i>Membership Sunday /First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>February 26, 2023</i>
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Theme: “Acknowledging the Brokenness as a Community of Faith”

Biblical Text: Mark 8:31-38 NRSV

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are

ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Notes for Worship Preparation

Prepare the following symbols and materials

- Cross, Bible, Candle,
- Cloth (purple)
- Fresh Flowers,
- Printed pictures of the congregation doing church activities e.g. Family day, Christmas, Sunday school, Bible Study etc.

Reflection

Lenten season is a preparation for commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. This celebration is when we, Christians are reminded and prompted to examine ourselves; to refresh and reflect upon God’s sacrifice and love through Jesus Christ, so that we can be right before God. This is a time to reflect on why we continue to live; a time where we reflect on the purpose of our lives; a time for all of us to be mindful of our covenant to follow Christ.

As we celebrate Membership Sunday, we are also reminded by the Scripture of what Jesus has taught us- to be one, to look after and love one another. We love because God first loved us. God’s love revealed through Jesus Christ challenges us as to how far we can live out our faith and serve God as members of the Body of Christ. Just as Jesus came to serve and not to be served.

In our Statement of Faith, it says WE BELIEVE that the Church is the one Body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God’s ministry. As entrusted by God, we also have our responsibilities and privileges of Church Membership. Our love and commitment to Jesus may be expressed in our participation in the life and work of the church, in our family and in the community. As a Church, we give, we unite, we attend, we pray, we worship, we are accountable. Our ministry does not only focus on ourselves but more to others.

In this Lent celebration, may we let ourselves be open and be nurtured by the Holy Spirit to remind ourselves of the greatest reason of God’s love and sacrifice through Jesus Christ. Let us reflect on how far we are willing to take up our cross for the sake of others. As we look into ourselves, may we also reminded of the ministry to serve and not to be served and as followers of Christ, to continue to build God’s kingdom here on earth and herald the fullness of life in Christ.

THE LITURGY

**to those who can, please stand...*

Silence...

Words to Ponder thru the opening song

Opening Song

“When I look into Your Holiness”

Words and Music by Wayne and Cathy Perrin

When I look into Your holiness, when I gaze into Your loveliness
When all things that surround become shadows in the light of You,
When I found the joy of reaching Your heart,
when my will becomes enthralled in Your love
When all things that surround become shadows in the light of You.
I worship You, I worship You,

The reason I live is to worship You...
I worship You, I worship You

The reason I live is to worship You...

Call to Worship

(Adapted from Psalm 25: 1 - 3)

One: To you, O God, we lift up the spirit of our whole selves.

All: O God, we trust unashamedly in you; seeking that you be not ashamed of us;

One: May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships.

All: Teach us. Show us. Guide us in your paths. Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

One: You are the God of our salvation and the Sustainer of good relations.

All: For you we wait.

One: May integrity, a clean conscience, and upright living preserve us.

All: Amen.

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Lord of unity and love, we come before your presence as one body of Christ whom you sent, for us to be saved. Thank you for the bond that we have for each other as a family, as a church and as a community. May our differences be a strength to continue to take up our cross as witnesses of your love and goodness and as followers of Christ who ought to have a good relationship with each other. Thank you for the gift of life and for this encounter. All glory and honor to you, in Christ's name, our friend. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Lyrics by Matthew Bridges and Gidfrey Thring; Tune by George J. Elvey

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Love, behold His hands and side
Rich wounds yet visible above, in beauty glorified
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

Prayer for Confession

One: This time of lent, we recognize and look into ourselves how can we please God in our service to our families, to the church and to the community. In some time we choose not to acknowledge our wrongdoings and failures to attend responsibilities and commitment as church members. We pray, we ask.... Teach us, oh Lord.

People:

Forgive us Lord when we are not mindful of our acts towards our brothers and sisters in the church...
Forgive us Lord when we are not able to function our responsibilities in the church,
Forgive us Lord when we are not able to attend church worship services and activities because we choose to go somewhere,
Forgive us Lord when we fail to relate and respond to the life and concerns of the society,
Forgive us Lord when we forget to deepen our spiritual life, work and renew our commitment...

One: Teach us Lord to practice acts of kindness to our family and friends, to society and to the church, we pray.
Amen.

Silent Confession...

Assurance of God’s Love

Minister: In this season of preparation and reflection of our lives, as individuals and as communities, and as we remember the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded of the purpose of His coming into the world and the reason for giving Himself that we may all have life and have it abundantly. May this be a time to evaluate ourselves in the light of our Lord’s example and teachings. Are we living for others? Is our community providing the needs of everyone? If not, what are we doing about it? May we make this season true and meaningful for our lives and not make a mockery of Christ’s passion and suffering. Accept God’s forgiveness with eagerness to work in service and reveal God’s love to others through yourselves.

Song Response	“You Gave My Heart New Songs of Praise”	HFJ,297
	<i>(3rd stanza and Refrain only)</i>	
	<i>Words: para. of Psalm 40, Ruth C. Duck</i>	
	<i>Music: Lamont Lenox, 1996</i>	

*Your love outshines what tongue can say, yet I accept your call,
To tell what you have done for me and how you love us all.*

Refrain: *A new song, a new song;
I sing your loving kindness and your grace
A new song, a new song, a new song in my heart,
I sing a song of joy and praise*

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Community and Church Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Song Response	“I Need You Every Hour” (Chorus only) HFJ,220
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We need you, how we need you, every hour we need you
O bless us now, our Saviour, we come to you

***Scripture Reading**

Anthem

Message

Call to Offering

One: Psalm 25:10 reminds us, “All the paths of God are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.” Our church's ministries are extensions of God's love and faithfulness made possible through the generous giving of our time, energy, and money. With love, let us offer our gifts to God.

Giving of Tithes/ Pledges/ Thanksgiving & other Offerings

Offertory Music

***Doxology** **“All That We Have in Our Lives”**

Cebuano Words and Music by Elena G. Maquiso; Eng. Transl. by Jeaneth Faller
Arr. Isabel D. Vista, 1972

*Bless these our gifts to you for you are the source of life,
O use us now in building up your kingdom here on earth.*

***Hymn of Faith & Trust** **“Have Your Own Way, Lord” HFJ,200**
Words: Adelaide A. Pollard., alt. George C. Stebbins

Have your own way, Lord! Have your own way! You are the potter, I am the clay,
Mould me and make me after your will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have your own way, Lord! Have your own way! Search me and try me, Master today,
Clean I would be, lord, wash me just now, As in your presence humbly I bow.

Have your own way, Lord! Have your own way! Wounded and weary, help me, I pray,
Powers is yours, Lord, power sublime! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have your own way, Lord! Have your own way! Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with your Spirit till all shall see Christ only!, always living in me!

***Closing Prayer** **Minister**

***Benediction**

Minister: Mindful of your mercy, forgiveness, and instruction, O God, we go into the world renewed, refreshed, and full of courage to be your people. We go in peace to work for justice, to serve your people, our brothers and sisters.

All : As we go out from this place and into the world, we strongly affirm as members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines our being united and uniting; our character is evangelical and evangelistic; our ministry is wholistic; our concerns are universal and inclusive; our spirit is progressive and attitude is open-minded. Amen

***Song Response** **“5 Fold Amen”**

References:
Hymnary.org
Call to Worship - uccorg.worshipliturgy
Hymnal of Faith Journey

