



*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for

March 8, 2026

10:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are with us today.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - AGAIN & AGAIN, WE ARE SHOWN THE WAY

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

Cover Art: "Overturn," by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE All Men Are Mortal

J. S. Bach

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Again and again,

All: We come to this space.

One: Again and again,

All: We gather as a community.

One: Again and again,

All: We move closer to God.

One: And again and again,

All: God is here.

One: We are met.

All: We are heard.

One: We are shown the way.

All: So again and again,

Let us worship holy God.

*OPENING HYMN (*Insert, Next Page*) Lord, Who throughout these Forty Days, (v. 1, 2, 4, & 5)

ST. FLAVIAN

PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Ebony McMillan

Praise God, praise God, all you little children,

God is love, God is love;

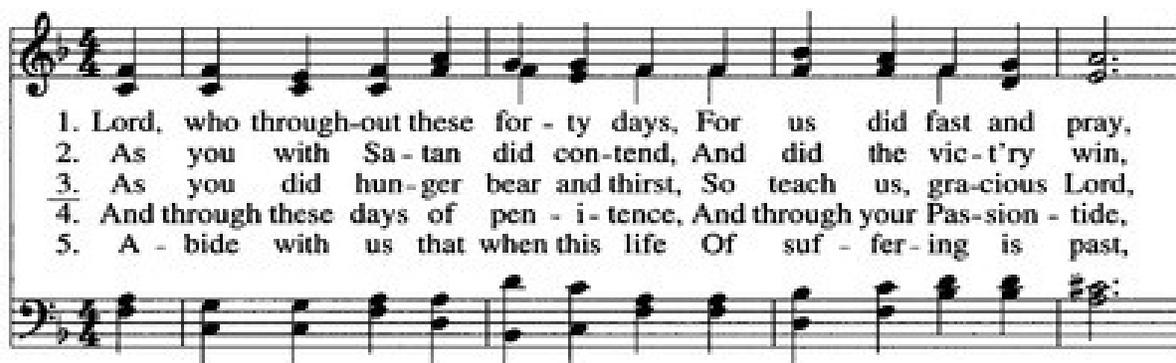
Praise God, praise God, all you little children,

God is love, God is love.

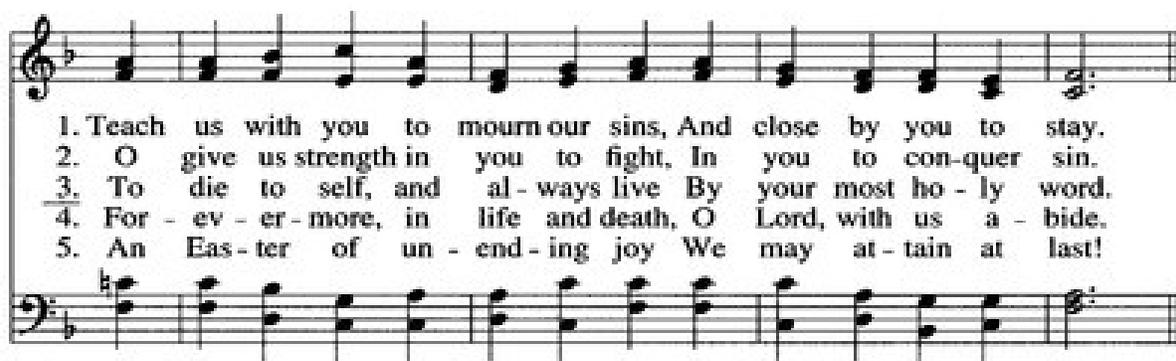
C. Bonner

LENT
352

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, And did the vic - t'ry win,
3. As you did hun - ger bear and thirst, So teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through your Pas - sion - tide,
5. A - bide with us that when this life Of suf - fer - ing is past,



1. Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.
2. O give us strength in you to fight, In you to con - quer sin.
3. To die to self, and al - ways live By your most ho - ly word.
4. For - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
5. An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last!

Text: CM; Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt.

Music: ST. FLAVIAN; *The Whole Psalms in Four Parts*, 1563; adapt. by Richard Redhead, 1820-1901;
arr. fr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 2:13-22
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

SERMON Again and Again, We are Shown the Way

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSIC VIDEO *Again and Again*

The Many

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of Justice,
We are guilty of building tables.

**All: We have built tables that oppression dines on,
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

One: God of Justice,
We are guilty of forgetting where we are,

**All: Of turning faith into a negotiation tool
And the church into a place for insiders.**

One: God of Justice,
We are guilty of ignoring the point;

**All: For you taught that the temple was for worship
And your message was for all.**

One: God of our hearts,
All: Be in our decision making.

One: Draw near to our choices.

All: Forgive our mistakes.

One: And as you do,

All: Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.

One: With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

*The good news is that God took on flesh and
walked this earth to show us the way.*

*God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks like
to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption.*

God took on flesh to teach us another way.

God took on flesh to point us to restoration.

God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.

*Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven
by a just and merciful God.*

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Soon Ah' Will Be Done
Center Church Choir

W. Dawson

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
A God who stands with the underdog,
Who passionately protects the suffering,
And who overturns systems of corruption.
We believe in a God who leads by example—
Feeding the hungry,
Welcoming the children,
Offering water to the Samaritan,
Eating with the tax collector,
Healing the sick,
Preaching from the mountaintop,
And offering second chances.
We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
And still said, “This is my body broken for you.”
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
And still said, “I’m going to prepare a place for you.”
And because of this love,
We believe that God shows us the way,
Again and again and again.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN NCH 403 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

*As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.*

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Allegro Vivace

H. Schroeder

Thank you to everyone who participated in worship today! Go forth in Peace, beloved of God.