



Rainbow over the Pyramid



THE 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
A Service of the Word

February 21, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 1st Sunday in Lent

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness

— (Ps. 25:10)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude

Janice Castle

Welcome

News from our Life Together

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***Many:* And also with you.**

Call to Worship

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

***Many:* 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;*

***Many:* 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.*

***Many:* For you we wait.**

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

***Many:* Amen.**

Hymn — “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of Confession

Many: Sisters and Brothers, in our daily lives we need the gift of the season of Lent. These 40 days can help us restore right relationships with God and with others. This is a fine time to focus, clear our hearts and minds of distractions, and re-orient and restore our whole selves.

**May God be with us. Let us pray: Creating and Renewing God,
In this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy.**

Help us get our minds off distractions, obsessions and self-pity so that we don't feel helpless.

Help us to start over.

Re-orient head and heart so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts. Amen.

Silence is kept for personal confession and reflection.

Assurance of Pardon

PRAYER FOR MERCY: KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

* **REFRAIN:** "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

TAKE ME AS I AM



Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up-on my heart, and live in me.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Genesis 9:1-18

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

Scripture Reading — Psalm 25:1-10

Your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

Sermon — "God's Loving Paths"

Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

The **refrain** ("Take, O Take Me as I Am" – music above) is repeated.

* REFRAIN: "Take, O Take Me as I Am"

TAKE ME AS I AM

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, with accompaniment in the Bass clef. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart, and live in me." The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties. The final note of the melody is a half note with a fermata.

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrsconchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.

Text: Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch \$100").

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature. To protect privacy, surnames will not be used.

Call to Offering

Dedication

Many: God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you, our church and the world. Amen.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” - Spiritual *Elaine Chague, soloist*

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus, to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me,
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus, to walk with me.

The Prayers of the People, *ending with The Lord's Prayer*

Many: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “God of the Sparrow”

this bulletin, pg. 7

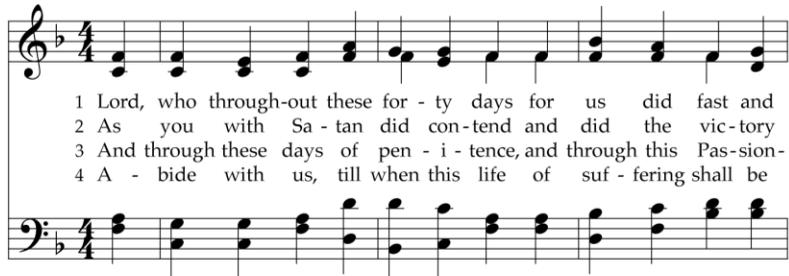
Benediction

Postlude

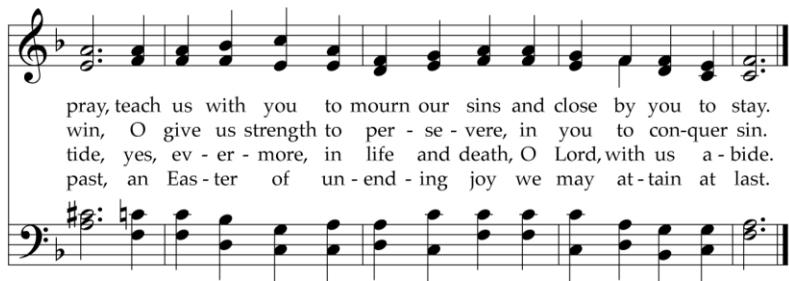
Janice Castle

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend and did the vic - tory
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion -
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be



pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.

TEXT: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.
MUSIC: Day's *Psalter*, 1562

ST. FLAVIAN
CM

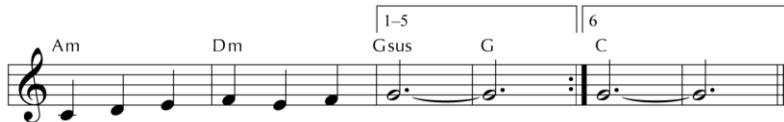
22 God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the



swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say Care
 prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say Love
 lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say Joy



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life
 How does the crea - ture say Peace
 How do your chil - dren say Home

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though a lack of punctuation makes this text appear freeform and the flowing tune enhances a sense of movement, each stanza here is firmly anchored by a final weighty word (praise, save, thanks, life, peace, home), a sign of God's eternal presence in an ever-changing world.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Call to Worship – Adapted from Psalm 25: 1-3
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- **Mail:** You can mail your check or money order to us at the church office
- **Drop-off:** You can drop off cash, checks, or money orders at the church office during the week.
- **Online Bill Pay:** Most banks and credit unions offer an “online bill pay” in their online account access. All you need to do is set up the church as another payee in that system, and your bank or credit union will print a check and mail it to us at no cost—you don’t even need to find a stamp!
- **Online or text via ACH debit from a checking or savings account:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can make an auto-debit from your checking or savings account. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 1% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 1% processing fee.)
- **Online or text via Debit Card or Credit Card:** By using our website giving portal (go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green “Give now...” button), you can charge your contribution to a debit card or credit card. (Note that we are assessed a small processing fee, 3% of the contribution, plus 35¢ per transaction. You will be given the option—and it *is* optional—when you make your contribution to add a small amount to offset the 3% processing fee.) If using a *credit* card, know that we as a church do *not* want you to add to any debt load in order for you to contribute, as that’s not good stewardship! If using a *credit* card, please make sure, for your own sake, that it’s a card for which you pay off the balance each month.

If you have any questions about how to make a contribution, or about your giving history, feel free to contact our Collector, Donna Latincsics (contact info available through the church office).

We envision our community as a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community. We are an Open and Affirming congregation: Believing that each of us is unique and blessed with special talents from God, each a creation of God's love, alike and yet different, we open our doors and our ministry to *all*. We accept into full participation in the life of this Church: people of any age, economic status, gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation, and physical, emotional and mental capability. As a community, we will work to put aside all prejudices and to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of each person.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
*We share in God's love by growing in faith,
courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.*

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Interim Senior Minister</i>	Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine – revdebbie@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 23
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 26
<i>Director of Faith Formation</i>	Lisa Haupt – lisa@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 22
<i>Office Administrator</i>	Deborah Gacek – sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 21
<i>Communications & Digital Ministry Specialist</i>	Claire Galvin – claire@storrsconchurch.org Ext. 22
<i>Sexton</i>	Antonio Aguilera