



Prophet Jeremiah



THE 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
A Service of the Word

March 21, 2021 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 5th Sunday in Lent

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

— Psalm 51:10

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts

GATHERING

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

Prelude — “Rhosymedre” by Vaughan Williams

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

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.**

Invocation

One: God of the journey, you invite us, the church, “to accept the cost and joy of discipleship” and “to be your servants in the service of others.” In so doing, may your presence be our guide and Jesus our model. May we respond to you in loving faithfulness. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

One: Let us gather to worship.

Many: **O God, we wish to see Jesus!**

We come to worship, to pray, and learn.

One: We come looking for Jesus in Scripture lessons, in our own life experiences, in helping our world, in prayers for each other.

Many: **We seek to follow in the way of Jesus.**

One: We lay bare before God and one another our own wilderness journey filled with some gladness and hope, with reluctance and sorrow, with fear and confusion.

Many: **O God, speak to us, show us, touch us with your presence!**

One: Let our Lenten journey lead us to Jesus, so that we may show Jesus forth in our lives, our faith community, and our world. **Amen.**

Hymn — “Spirit, Open My Heart”

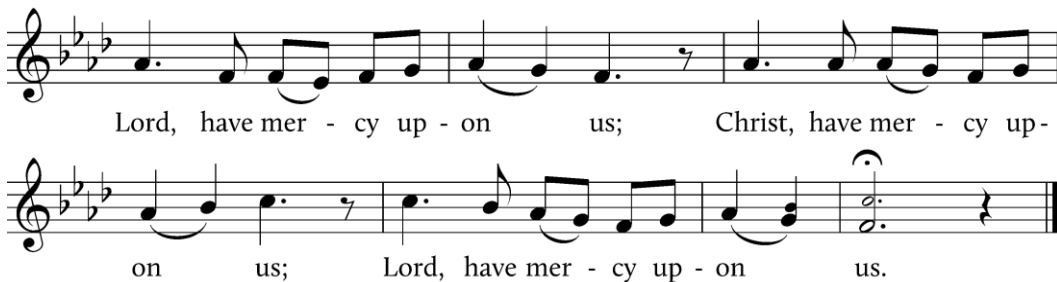
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Prayer of Confession

Many: Grandmother, Grandfather, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way. We know that we are divided, and we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the Sacred Way. O God, Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we may heal the earth and heal each other. Amen. (*Ojibway, Canada*)

Silence is kept for personal confession and reflection.

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.

Assurance of Pardon

WORD

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

*RESPONSE: "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.

The image shows a musical score for a response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the third line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, likely for a church service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

Scripture Reading — John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The Early Word

Lisa Haupt

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

RESPONSE

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

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.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

One: Jesus compels us to join him in service to others. Our church accepts the invitation and challenge to show Jesus’ Way using the resources we share. Let us give as we are able to the ministries of our church.

Dedication

Many: God, there are many who “wish to see Jesus.” In joy and celebration of the many gifts that we share we ask you to bless all of our offerings. May Jesus shine in all the world. Amen.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” arr. by Hogan *Choral Scholars with Elaine and Rich*

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus. Lord I want to be more holy.

Lord, I want to be a Christian.

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.

For the Lord’s Prayer, we invite you to use the language most comfortable for you: “Our Father/ Mother/ Creator/ Holy One...”

SENDING

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

News from our Life Together

Hymn — “Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

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Benediction

Postlude — “Caprice” by Clérambault

Dr. Patricia Snyder

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!*

692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
 Refrain F B^b F B^b C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
 Dm F/C B^b C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
 F B^b Gm7 F B^b F

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
 F B^b F B^b

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's

2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my

3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
 C7 Dm F/C B^b C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and

goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and

sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
 Dm Gm7 F B^b2 B^b

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.

deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.

Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

to Refrain

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
 Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME
 Irregular

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

Written by a nineteen-year-old in Connecticut, this challenging text has been widely printed on both sides of the Atlantic. It is strengthened by its resolute repetition of the same four words at the beginning of each stanza and by the appropriately stark shape note tune.

TEXT: Charles William Everest, 1833, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. Freeman Lewis, 1814; harm. John Leon Hooker, 1984
 Music Harm. © 1984 John Leon Hooker

BOURBON
 LM

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

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- Prayer of Confession: Ojibway, Canada.
- “Kyrie” setting: Text from traditional Christian liturgy. Music by J. Christopher Pardini, 2005, ©2011 Birnamwood Publications (a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #575.
- Refrain – “Take, O Take Me as I Am”: Text and music by John L. Bell, 1995, ©1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland; admin. GIA Publications Inc.; all rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-719182. Reprinted from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #698.
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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.storrsconchurch.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.storrsconchurch.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.***

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