



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 2/26/2023
First Sunday in Lent
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship (Today's prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Leader: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

People: We stand together on the cusp of something new.

Leader: Will we wade into self-reflection?

People: Will we invite honesty to dance?

Leader: Will we listen for God's invitation?

People: Will we seek deeper faith?

Leader: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

People: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

Leader: Listen, God is speaking.

***Hymn of Celebration:** "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land" New Century Hymnal #572

***Invocation** (Unison)

God, We want to hear your voice. Shout loudly; don't hold back.

Move in our spirits the way you moved over the waters of creation.

We are beginning a new season today, God, and we don't want to begin anything without you.

So speak to us today—

through silence,

through scripture,

through song.

Speak to us as you spoke to the Israelites so many moons ago.

Speak to us

like a gentle breeze

or a loud trumpet.

We don't care how, we just long to hear your voice.

So don't hold back. We are here. We are listening. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text: John 1:1-5

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.

Reflecting: Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper, preaching

***Hymn of Reflection:** "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" New Century Hymnal #454

***Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Leader: Merciful God, how many times in a day could we choose love?

People: How many times could we choose justice?

Leader: How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?

People: How many times could we offer grace?

Leader: How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?

People: Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.

Leader: Forgive us for hitching our horse to the world's measure of goodness, instead of yours.

People: Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually, even in the parched places.

Leader: With gratitude we pray, **Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity

Offering our gifts and our prayers

Offertory Music: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* Arr. Moses Hogan

***Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth*, New Century Hymnal #780)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

***Sending Song:** "Rise" (See handout.) Justice Choir Songbook

***Benediction**

Postlude:

*** Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Jaime Hadley, Usher

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Joy Penticuff, Liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin