



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 3/19/2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude "Waltz for Sebastian" Jonathan Geer

Welcome

Words for Centering Matthew 3:13-17

***Hymn:** "Just As I Am" New Century Hymnal #207

***Invocation** (Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

Leader: Scripture is full of questions...

People: Where are you?

Leader: Am I my brother's keeper?

People: Whom shall I send?

Leader: Who do you say that I am?

People: Who sinned?

Leader: How many times shall I forgive?

People: If God is for us, who can be against us?

Leader: Scripture is full of questions,

so just like those in our scriptures, may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

People: Let us ask and seek after our merciful God. Amen.

The Baptism of Sebastian Hernandez Geer

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Sebastian, as he lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

***Hymn of Reflection:** "We Come With Questions" See Handout.

Reflecting: "It's Time to Share"
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

Listening For the Spirit in Silence

Affirming Our Faith (Unison)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our brother Jesus Christ, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Offering our gifts and our prayers

Offertory Music: "Perfume de Gardenia" Hernandez

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

***Sending Song:** "What Wondrous Love is This?" New Century Hymnal #223

***Benediction**

Postlude: "El Son de la Negra" arr. Garcia

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

CJ Wood, Liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello