



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 3/5/2023
Second Sunday in Lent
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude

Elégie

F. Chopin, Arr. R. Jungnickel

Welcome

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

Leader: What is it like to begin again?

People: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.

It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.

It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

Leader: May we find God in our seeking.

People: May we learn as we go.

Leader: May we be brave enough to begin again.

People: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.

***Hymn of Celebration:**

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

New Century Hymnal #337

***Invocation** (Unison)

Holy God, We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be? What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly?

As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text.

Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you.

With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text: John 3:1-17 | Genesis 12:1-4a

Listening for the Spirit in Silence:

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

Reflecting:

"How do we begin again?"

***Hymn of Reflection:**

"Begin Again"

See Handout.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer for Transformation & New Life

Leader: God of new life, you call us into unknown places,

People: and we bury our heads in the sand.

Leader: You promise all the stars in the sky,

People: and we doubt it can be true.

Leader: You speak of new life in the Spirit,

People: and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

Leader: Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

People: Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you.

Words of Grace: Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new. Join me in saying:

We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Music for the Meal:

"One Voice"

Ruth Moody

Trio: Jeannie Binder, Amy Harris, Laura Martin

Invitation to Generosity

Offering our gifts and our prayers

Offertory Music:

Grace

Julie Flanders & Emil Adler

***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:

Scherzo from Trio in Bb

P. Köhler

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music

CJ Wood, Deacon

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Joy Penticuff, Liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin