

PALGRAVE

March 17, 2024 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sing a New Song

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome and announcements, Territorial Acknowledgement

Call to Worship:

When what we have hoped for and trusted in has let us down:

God reaches out to us.

When the world seems dark, and despair threatens to close in upon us:

There is Christ reaching out for us.

God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers flow in the desert.

The Lord does great things for us, and we rejoice.

Let us worship the Lord, who is always ready to reach out to us.

Hymn: Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped VU 221

Gathering Prayer

Holy God, you were always with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem, guiding his choices and strengthening his courage each step of the way. As your beloved children, be with us and strengthen us on our journeys. Through our time of worship, help us to receive your good news of love and salvation, and may that good news take root within us, so that our lives might bear witness to the triumph of love over fear, and life over death. Guide our worship and our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Seeking reconciliation and renewal.

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God. **Loving Jesus, we gather in your name today, aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross.**

We confess it is not easy to follow your story.

Your willingness to give yourself inspired some to give of themselves, while others hesitated.

We confess we often struggle to decide what to give and whom to help.

Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share and excuse ourselves from acting generously, as you did.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his all. Amen

Hymn: Lead Me, God VU 662

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Readings: Psalm 51:1-12
John 12:20-33

Sermon Tough Choices

Hymn: O Lord My God VU 238

Prayer of thanksgiving and intercession

Offering

Hymn: I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry VU 644

Blessings and Benediction

Closing Chorus: Take, O Take Me as I Am VU 85