

## **A Midweek Lenten Service, modified for Online and Pandemic**

### **Call to Worship**

when the world is no longer a paradise  
and creation shows its full power over us still  
and we are brought down to size on this small planet of ours  
**we worship**

when the memories linger of the past  
and war and pandemic shapes us beyond our knowing  
and conflict or confusion becomes a story of life  
**we worship**

when the way is more barren than beautiful  
when the path is more a climb than a stroll  
when the desert expands and the horizon stretches  
**we worship**

we worship  
because we can  
**we worship**  
**because we hope**

we worship  
because we know our vulnerability  
**when things shift**  
**and we need to hold on**  
**we worship**  
**it is the only strength we have for the journey**

welcome to Lent \*

### ***Gathering Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River***

1 Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

#### **Refrain:**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.**

2 On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day. [Refrain]

3 Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown. [Refrain]

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,  
soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace. [Refrain]

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer for Lent

O God, who makes all things new,  
**new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart,  
every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something  
new in me.**

**I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth;  
the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven.**

**And then, by the power of your Spirit, I need to be turned toward  
Love again. Amen. \*\***

## WORD

**Readings end with:**

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN MEDITATION SERIES – The Travesty of Justice: In the Shadow of the Cross,

### Hymn of the Evening: Were You There

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the  
tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they pierced him in the  
side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the

side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the  
side?

4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the  
tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?





## **OFFERING**

### **SENDING**

*Please rise as you are able.*

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

#### **Blessing**

May the dust of the wilderness hold our footprints  
lovingly  
shaped as they are by our hurt  
for dust remembers

**May the journey into wilderness unfold  
honestly  
for honesty is a gift  
our souls recognize**

May our time in this wilderness  
be shaped by space  
rather than minutes  
so there is time enough for all of us

**May the stones in this wilderness  
cry out our names loudly  
that our spirit recognizes the voice  
that has been calling us always**

And may we know this wilderness  
has been expecting us  
may we find between the stones  
a promise growing \*  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

**Refrain:**

**In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.**

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
love and mercy found me;  
there the bright and morning star  
sheds its beams around me. [Refrain]

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,  
bring its scenes before me;  
help me walk from day to day  
with its shadow o'er me. [Refrain]

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,  
hoping, trusting ever,  
till I reach the golden strand  
just beyond the river. [Refrain]

**Dismissal**

Go in peace, go in love, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*\*based on prayers written by Roddy Hamilton. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>*

*\*\* by Pamela C. Hawkins, [prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/](http://prayersandcreeds.wordpress.com/)*

