



CALL TO WORSHIP

“Even now, declares the Lord,
return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.

Come in from the storm.

Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw.

Take a deep breath.

Return to God

with all your heart.

May it be so.

CALL TO CONFESSION

*SONG OF GATHERING

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God with whom we walk this Lenten path,

Bless us this day as we begin the long journey to the cross.

Come to this place and remember your covenant with us.

Remember the promise you made with us mere mortals

to remain with us despite our dust.

Shower your Spirit upon us for we need direction on this long road ahead.

Care for us, your children, as we weather this winding road,

following the faithful path of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION + WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, I confess: I don't return to you fully.

I share with you the pieces of my life that are convenient.

I put on different hats in different rooms.

I forget that I am called, invited, and loved with all that I am—
including my mess, my beauty, my faith, and my doubt.

Forgive me, and give me a heart that longs to return.

**Friend, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed
with all that you are. Rest in that good news.**

Thanks be to God, amen.

Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully.

We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient.

We put on different hats in different rooms.

**We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are—
including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt.**

Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

Thanks be to God, amen.

*LESSON

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. ³But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ⁴so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

⁵“When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. ⁶But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And when you fast, don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They distort their faces so people will know they are fasting. I assure you that they have their reward. ¹⁷When you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. ¹⁸Then you won't look like you are fasting to people, but only to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. ²⁰Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. ²¹Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

L: This is the Word of God for all people.

P: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION and AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*CLOSING SONG

Liturgy and Prayers Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed | sanctifiedart.org