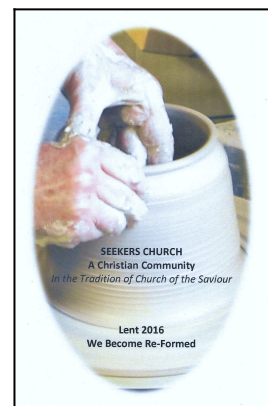


2016 Lent – We Become Re-Formed

GATHERING



ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

There is a hard truth to be told: before spring becomes beautiful, it is plug ugly, nothing but mud and muck. I have walked in the early spring through fields that will suck your boots off, a world so wet and woeful it makes you yearn for the return of ice. But in that muddy mess, the conditions for rebirth are being created.

Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*, p 103

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You call us out of the mud and muck of our lives,

to gather as your people.

People: We come to be re-formed in your image, re-formed by your love.

Leader: Although we yearn for the familiar past, we step up with courage to the promise of the future.

All: We welcome the opportunity for rebirth.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: Holy Maker of ice and snow and
mud and muck,

you call us to love all of
your creation,

even as you love us to the
end of time.

People: We confess that it is much
easier

to love the flowers and
the fruit,

than to love the mud which
feeds their roots.

Leader: You call us to look inward,

to confess that none of us
lives up to our own ideals;

and to look outward,

to confess our
participation in the evils that surround us.

People: We confess that it is easier to
blame others,

than to see how we are
part of the problem.

Leader: You call us to be a new
creation,

to become the Body of

Christ

for the healing of a
broken world.

All: Forgive us when we resist
becoming re-formed,
preferring to stay frozen
in our accustomed ways.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy One is in the ugliness
of our struggles,
feeding our hidden roots
with patient, unseen love.

In God's forgiving
embrace, we become re-formed.

All: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION

COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today
to claim our relationship
with you.

We pray for the commitment
to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give
us with others
here and in the wider

world.

have inflicted,
who have hurt us.

discipline
relationship with you;
your creation;
in solidarity with those in need;
and violence, and discord;
when you call,
as you have shown the way.

and your creation

the Chris. Amen.

Forgive us for the hurt we
and help us forgive those

Give us strength and
to nurture our
to care for every part of
to foster justice and be
to work to end all war,
and to respond joyfully
freely giving our selves

We open our hearts to you

in the name of Jesus, who is

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

COMMUNION

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at
once;

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of
knowing,
believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: Holy shaper of this rich reality,
we give you thanks
for the way you form us
into vessels of your healing.

People: Holy light of new beginnings,
we give you thanks
for your presence among us as the
Christ,
who helps us share your love.

Leader 2: Holy comforter of those in pain,
we give you thanks
for the unfailing power of your Spirit,
pruning us to bear the fruits of hope.

All: We give you thanks for your holy Church,
a place where we can stand together
as a sign of hope and healing in this
fractured world.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of

life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.

You who come to me shall never hunger,
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke
it and said,

This is my body,
broken for the healing of the world.

Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit
that these gifts of bread and cup
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Unite us with Christ forever
and bring us with the whole creation
to your eternal realm.

SHARE THE ELEMENTS

If you do not wish to receive the elements today you are welcome to join the circle and allow them
to pass, or remain in your seat. We serve grape juice in our cups.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,
we give joyful thanks
for your eternal love and healing presence
in our celebration of bread and cup.
Bless this body of Christ
that we may attend faithfully
to our call to be your servants,
with each other and throughout the world.

All: Amen.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader:
muck of early spring,
wet and woeful world,
life beneath our feet.
of life,
Christ,
Spirit,
with signs of peace.

All:

As we walk through the mud and
bearing in our hearts the
let us remember the new
Rooted in the Holy Source
enlivened by the love of
and nourished by the Holy
let us greet one another

Amen.