

# State Street Church United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Church*

February 18, 2024



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State Street Church, United Church of Christ

The First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

Prelude *Joshua 'Fit the Battle of Jericho* African-American Spiritual,  
arr. Ron Boud  
*There is a Balm in Gilead* African-American Spiritual,  
arr. Sam Batt Owens

Greetings, Introductions, and Announcements

\*Opening Hymn No.211 "Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

\*Call to Worship Liturgist Camy Barrantes  
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2023

One: Lenten travelers, when you feel the security of God's love,  
affirmation of God's call, and covered in God's grace...

**Many: God comes near.**

One: When you feel deserted and alone, starving and parched for a  
caring hand or an encouraging word, troubled and uncertain as the  
ground under you shifts like sand...

**Many: God comes near.**

One: When you feel emboldened to act, inspired to speak, energized to  
live as bearers of the good news that the Kingdom of God is here...

**Many: God comes near.**

One: In all seasons of our lives, God comes near to us and does not  
forsake us.

**All: We gather to come near to God whose ever-present love  
remains near no matter where our journey takes us. Amen.**

\*Invocation (unison)

**God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your  
presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed  
that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own.  
Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders  
and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what  
the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your  
presence. Amen and Amen!**

A Time For Children

Lenten Confession

Call to Confession

Rev. Bryan S. Breault

Preparation:

"God Be In My Heart (see insert)"

GOD BE IN MY HEAD

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Forgiving Lord, You have promised us your presence, in Spirit, and in community. You have graced us with your kingdom, both in teaching and in service. Even so, we sometimes neglect, ignore, and reject your purposes for us. We do not always love what you love. We do not always embrace what you embrace. We do not always defend what you have called us to defend. We know that life is brief, and we yearn to live in harmony with your will. Have mercy on us, God. Forgive us for ignoring the bounty around us and neglecting those who are in need, in body, soul or both. We earnestly ask you to continue working in our lives through Jesus Christ, now and forevermore. Hear now the truth within our hearts that we confess to you, of that which we have done, or failed to do...**

Silence

Assurance of God's Love

Choral Response

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10 (pew Bible pg. 554)

Christian Scripture: Mark 1:9-15 (pew Bible pg. 35)

Hymn No. 501

"We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle"

JACOB'S LADDER

This Morning's Sermon

Rev. Bryan S. Breault

The Prayers

Joys and Concerns

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, Mother, Parent, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering

Invitation

Offertory

*The Morning Trumpet*

Benjamin Franklin White,  
arr. Stan Pethel

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above all heavenly hosts,**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Closing Hymn No. 391 "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NEW DIMENSIONS

\*Benediction

Postlude *Go Down, Moses and I Want to Be Ready* African-American  
Spirituals,  
arr. Charles Callahan

Sitting for the postlude is voluntary. If you so choose, please feel free to leave the sanctuary quietly.

**Please join us in the Chapel Hall for a time of  
fellowship and refreshment.**

Our thanks to the Deacons of the day, Debra Yoo, Denny Barrantes, and Nor Dale, our usher, Josh Davis, today's kitchen crew, Sonia Barrantes, Sue Welch and Ben and Princillia Mbongo, our liturgist Camy Barrantes, our live streaming team member, Ginger Raspillar, our organist John Williams, and to Davis Balestracci for choir leadership .

**This Week at State Street Church**

**Sun. February 18**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Weds. February 21**

6:30 p.m. Council Meeting  
7:00 p.m. No More Tears Meeting

**Tues. February 20**

7:00 p.m. Share and Live Meeting

**Sun. February 25**

9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

An easy way to donate to State Street Church,  
just scan the QR code below with your phone!



Restrooms are to the left and right of the hall at the back of the sanctuary.