

*Order of Worship*  
*FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT*  
9:30 am – March 17, 2024

*Participating Live?*

*Text your prayer requests to 805-309-6867 before the end of the first hymn.*

**PRELUDE**

*Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*

Cathi Peterson

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**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsive)

Fran Turner, liturgist

Each day is a gift from God,  
**each moment is that opportunity to reach out in service to all creation.**

Each day is a reminder of the new covenant:

**not written on stone tablets easily broken, but inscribed on our hearts filled with joy and hope.**

Each day we draw closer to God:

**who has forgotten more than we ever learn; who has forgiven us more than we ever acknowledge.**

~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his Lectionary Liturgies blog.

**OPENING HYMN**

*Would I Have Answered When You Called*

TFWS 2137

Music: Public Domain. Words: Herman G. Stuempfle ©1997 GIA Publications. Song #03075.

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1. Would I have answered when you called, “Come, follow, follow me!”? Would I at once have left behind both work and family? Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee, On roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security? Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew, Where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, “Crucify!” When on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky? Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone, A dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways, Nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise. I only pray that when you call, “Come, follow, follow me!” You’ll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

*John 12:20-33* (NRSV)

Fran Turner, liturgist

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT** (Children and Youth come to the steps for a word from the pastor)

**PREPARATION HYMN***O Jesus, I Have Promised*

UMH 396

Words: John E. Bode, 1866, public domain. Music: Arthur H. Mann, 1881, public domain.

1. O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.  
2.
2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
3. O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will. O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.
4. O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

**MESSAGE**

Barbara Tomblin

**MUSICAL RESPONSE***Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Victor C. Johnson

VFUMC Choir; Bob Riggs, interim director; Cathi Peterson, organ

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**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Holy God, Jesus offered his life for us. It was the ultimate sacrifice. Today we bring our monetary offerings, praying that you will bless them for good work in the world. We are mindful that our lives can be an offering too, in the way we live them, and so we ask your blessing on us too, that we may be about your work in the world in all we do. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN***Jesus Calls Us*

UMH 398

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852, public domain; Music: William H. Jude, 1874, public domain

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"
2. As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE***Christus der ist mein Leben*

Johann Pachelbel

public domain  
Cathi Peterson, organ

*Prayer Requests*

**First UMC of North Hollywood**—Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp

**First UMC of Paso Robles**—Pastor Joshua Zulueta

Pastor Cindy as she recovers from shoulder surgery

Leif—a friend of David Atkins suffering from severe diabetes

Pastor Diane’s daughter Michelle & wife Hannah. Hannah newly diagnosed with AVM

All those suffering from illness or loss of loved ones.

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