



Mystic, author, and Benedictine monk Brother David Steindl-Rast said this: "It is through wholehearted living that meaning flows into our lives... You see the sandpiper and something in you says a wholehearted yes, or you hear the rain and your whole being says yes to it. It's a special kind of yes; it's an unconditional yes."

Second Sunday in Lent: Meaning
March 16, 2025 10:30 AM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Arr. Sandra Eithun
Chancel Ringers

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

***LENTEN INVITATION**

One: Awe-inspiring God, we come together this day
because we need to be reminded to see through the lens of wonder.

All: Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.

One: Forgive us when we focus only on what's wrong
rather than allowing the right and good to show us the way forward.

All: Be with us on this journey as we seek again to marvel at all your works of love!

*GATHERING HYMN “When Morning Gilds the Skies” #86 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare: may Jesus Christ be praised!**

New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say, may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet change they hear: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant humankind, in this your concord find, may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine, may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this eternal song, though all the age long: may Jesus Christ be praised!

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

HANDBELL CHOIR ANTHEM "What Wondrous Love Is This" Arr. Anna Laura Page

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

CONTEMPORARY READING

excerpt from Brian McLaren in his book *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*:

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 19 Pew Bible p. 433

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “How Great Thou Art” #625 *Glory to God Hymnal*

**Oh Lord, my God, when I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee:How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: *Refrain***

**And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin: *Refrain***

**When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, “my God, how great Thou art!” *Refrain***

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: “Visio Divina”



THE 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 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.

OFFERTORY "Meditation in E Minor"

George Oldroyd

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*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: tune #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God, Creator of us all, Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

* COMMISSIONING HYMN "God Reigns o'er All the Earth" #21 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
In rainbow hues—reds, yellows, blues—of streams and country lanes.**

**God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
In death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.**

**God reigns o'er time and space! In history's by-gone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
Through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.**

**God reigns! Emmanuel! God with us every day,
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!**

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Prelude in G Minor"

J. S. Bach

Worship Endnotes: Various worship elements are adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com
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Lent Week 2 reflection and activity: Meaning

What is something you possess that you find deeply meaningful? Maybe it's a family heirloom, or a location where an important event or conversation took place. Maybe there's music that you find deeply meaningful. How could you visually capture the meaning or feeling of the song? Send Pastor Sarah any pictures you'd like to share with the congregation, at smccann@hopeuccstl.org