



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2024

10:00 am

Bold indicates congregational response.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Rev. Emily Rhodes Hunter

THE LENTEN CANDLES

Erin Freck

We get so caught up in all of it,
**in business and relationships,
hundred-mile-an-hour lives.**

If we could see that he's the One,
it seems the last thing on our mind.

But then, the great escape, the prison break,
the light of freedom on our face.

**Long live the walls we crashed through
how the kingdom lights shined for me and you.**

Will you take a moment?

Promise me this:

I'll stand by You forever.

Instrumental Music

Northside Chimes Choir

PRAYER

Caroline Garcia

HYMN

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

727

CONFESSION OF SIN

Paige Netting

After everything, we must confess, we need You.
We're a mess, but we're the mess You wanted.
Together, let us offer our prayer of confession:

I didn't know if You'd care if I came back. I have a lot of regrets about that. I could've followed my fears all the way down, but I'm here in Your doorway. Please Lord, patch up Your tapestry that I shred. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON/PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jayne Beth Martin

Wherever I stray,

You follow.

I've spent my whole life trying to put it into words:

mistakes are forgiven,

broken bones are mending.

May we leave those all in our past. Amen.

THE WORD WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Grace Lawson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wesley Flynn

Every dead-end street led us straight to You, Lord.

Because today is never too late to be made new,

meet us here in Your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

GOSPEL - Mark 2:1-12

Wesley Flynn

SERMON

Chris Smart

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Feast

Prayer After Communion

Reilly Oare

May this meal lead us into sacred new beginnings. May we offer our time, spirit, our trust to the King of our Hearts, that together, we might dream impossible things. Amen.

HYMN *"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"* 306

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Chris Smart

CHORAL RESPONSE 543

God, be the love to search and keep me;

God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me:

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

FELLOWSHIP TIME – ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

TODAY'S SERVICE

We give thanks for the students from UKirk Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech who are leading us in worship today! As they crafted the liturgy for this service, they wrestled with questions about how we create meaning, they explored how we might find the sacred in the secular, they pondered how popular culture might broaden our theological imaginations, and they wondered whether worship could be both playful and spiritually enriching.

As it turns out, they're not the only ones to ask these sorts of things! From Niebuhr's *Christ & Culture* to Wilder's *Theopoetic* to the Dadaists and the found poets and the hip hop artists who sample other tracks, many great thinkers and writers and theologians have informed our preparation.

Tying all of this together with a smile, we've adapted this morning's liturgy entirely from Taylor Swift lyrics. While her words resonate with our experiences, we hope that the service today might invite *you* to consider what speaks to the spiritual truths deep within you, even if it's not something that's traditionally lifted up in religious life. As Calvin reminds us, "the whole world is the theatre of God's glory." Taylor simply asks us, "Are you ready for it?"