

# Cornerstone Community Church of Lansingburgh

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**Worship in the Sanctuary or Before the Service**

**Sunday School starts at 10:00AM**

**Sunday Worship starts at 10:00AM**

**JOIN the ZOOM Meeting 9:45 am Worship by ZOOM**

**Call (929) 205 6099 Meeting ID: 853 6846 3784**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85368463784> Passcode: 604772**

## ***Lenten Spiritual Discipline 3***

### ***Lectio Divina-Praying with Scripture***

**Lectio Divina – (Praying with Scripture) literally meaning “divine reading,” is an ancient practice of praying the Scripture. During Lectio Divina, the practitioner listens to the text of the Bible with the “**ear of the heart,**” as if he or she is in conversation with God, and God is suggesting the topics of discussion.**

**This Praying Holy Scripture offers presentations based upon Fr. Thomas Keating’s teachings on the deepening levels of faith: the Four Senses of Scripture – literal, allegorical, behavioral/moral, and unitive senses. The presentations teach a contemplative way of listening to and reading Scripture known as the ancient monastic practice of Lectio Divina.**

**Like Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina cultivates contemplative prayer. Unlike Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina is a participatory, active practice that uses thoughts, images and insights to enter into a conversation with God.**



## The Guidelines

1. **Reading** (Lectio): Read a Scripture passage listening with the “ear of your heart.” What word or phrase captures your attention? Repeat it gently.
2. **Reflecting** (Meditatio): Reflect on and relish the words. Be attentive to what speaks to your heart.
3. **Responding** (Oratio): As listening deepens, allow responses to arise spontaneously — praise, thanksgiving, questions, petitions.
4. **Resting** in (Contemplatio): Simply “be with” God’s presence as you open to deeper meanings of the Word of God for you.

### History of Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice from the Christian contemplative heritage. It was made a regular practice in monasteries by the time of St. Benedict in the 6th century. The classical practice of Lectio Divina can be divided into two forms: monastic and scholastic. The scholastic form was developed in the Middle Ages and divides the process of Lectio Divina into four hierarchical, consecutive steps: reading, reflecting, responding and resting. The monastic form of Lectio Divina is a more ancient method in which reading, reflecting, responding and resting are experienced as moments rather than steps in a process. In this form, the interaction among the moments is dynamic and the movement through the moments follows the spontaneous prompting of the Holy Spirit. To allow for this spontaneity, Lectio Divina was originally practiced in private.

The current resurgence of Lectio Divina owes much to the reformations of Vatican II and the revival of the contemplative dimension of Christianity. Today, Lectio Divina is practiced in monasteries and by laypeople around the world. New practices have also been inspired by the ancient practice of Lectio Divina, such as praying the scriptures in common, which uses the scholastic form of Lectio Divina for a group experience of praying the scriptures. Though the method of Lectio Divina has taken slightly different forms throughout the centuries, the purpose has remained the same: to enter into a conversation with God and cultivate the gift of contemplation.

[https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lectio-Divina-2023-Brochure\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lectio-Divina-2023-Brochure_WEB.pdf)

If you say; 'Show me your God, ' I will say to you: 'Show me what kind of person you are, and I will show you my God.' Show me whether the eyes of your mind can see, and the ears of your heart can hear.

It is like this. Those who can see with the eyes of their bodies are aware of what is happening in this life. They get to know things that are different from each other. They distinguish light and darkness, ugliness and beauty, elegance and ugliness, proportion and lack of proportion, excess and defect. The same is true of the sounds we hear; high or low or pleasant. So it is with the ears of our heart and the eyes of our mind in their capacity to hear or see God.

God is seen by those who have the capacity to see him, provided that they keep the eyes of their mind open. All have eyes but some have eyes that are shrouded in darkness, unable to see the light of the sun. Because the blind cannot see it, it does not follow that the sun does not shine. The blind must trace the cause back to themselves and their eyes. In the same way, you have eyes in your mind that are shrouded in darkness .....A person's soul should be clean like a mirror reflecting light. If there is rust on the mirror a person's face cannot be seen in it.... .

But if you will you can be healed. Entrust yourself to the doctor, to the One who will be able to open the eyes of your mind and heart. Who is this doctor? It is God, who heals and gives life through his Word and wisdom.

If you understand this, and live in purity, and holiness and justice, you may see God. But, before all, faith and the fear of God must take the first place in your heart, and then you will understand all this. When you have laid aside mortality and been clothed in immortality, then you will see god according to your merits. God arises up your flesh to immortality along with your soul, and the, once made immortal, you will see the immoral One, if you believe in him now.

**NATURE OF GOD.-** You will say, then, to me, "Do you, who see God, explain to me the appearance of God." Hear, O man. The appearance of God is ineffable and indescribable, and cannot be seen by eyes of flesh. For in glory He is incomprehensible, in greatness unfathomable, in height inconceivable, in power incomparable, in wisdom unrivalled, in goodness inimitable, in kindness unutterable. For if I say He is Light, I name but His own work; if I call Him Word, I name but His sovereignty; if I call Him Mind, I speak but of His wisdom; if I say He is Spirit, I speak of His breath; if I call Him Wisdom, I speak of His offspring; if I call Him Strength, I speak of His sway; if I call Him Power, I am mentioning His activity; if Providence, I but mention His goodness; if I call Him Kingdom, I but mention His glory;..He is good, and kind, and merciful, to those who love and fear Him; for He is a chastener of the godly, and father of the righteous; but he is a judge and punisher of the impious.

**A reading from a book addressed to Autolytus (169 AD or CE) by Theophilus of Antioch.**

# Third Sunday in Lent, Year B

March 10, 2024

**\*Please stand as you are able**

## Announcements

## Joys and Concerns for Prayer

## Gathering

### Prelude

### Opening Prayer

Rev. Dr. Teresa Ko-Davis

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Lenten travelers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

#### **Only in God do we find our rest.**

Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

#### **Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.**

Somedays we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

#### **Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.**

Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

**Come, let us worship God together! Amen.**

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child one of us,  
 flesh and blood, to share in our humanity  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter  
 and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman  
 and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher  
 and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer  
 and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest, and king  
 and yet humbled himself to take our place upon the cross  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant  
 and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love for humankind  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the ignominy of a sinner's death  
 to the triumph of a Savior's resurrection  
 For God so loved the world  
**That all might have eternal life.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
 for the sake of me  
 and you  
 and other sinners too  
 God so loved the world  
 Blest are you Lord Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

DR. RICHARD DAVIS

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

*Offer prayers of silent confession*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.  
 We love with condition.  
 We judge and condemn.  
 We cast the first stone and keep the logs in our own eyes.  
 We do not turn to You as the source of our healing.

Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn 2108 TFWS “O How He Loves You and Me.” Repeat 2 Rounds**

**1 O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!**

**2 Jesus to calv’ry did go; his love for sinners to how. What he did there brought hope from despair. O how he love you: O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!**

**Proclamation of the Word**

**Psalm 46:10**

**“Be still, and know that I am God”**

**Ephesians 2:1-10****Rev. Dr. Teresa**

2:1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins

2:2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

2:3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us

2:5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--

2:6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

2:7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God--

2:9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

2:10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**John 3:14-21****Dr. Richard Davis**

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

3:18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

3:19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

3:20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

3:21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Dr. Richard Davis**

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen**

**Sermon "Intro to Lectio Divina, Praying with Scripture Part I"** Rev. Dr Teresa Ko-Davis

## **Response to the Word**

**\*Song of Response** TFWS 2143 "O Lord, Your Tenderness" **2x**

O Lord, your tenderness, melting all my bitterness; O lord, I receive your love.

O Lord, your loveliness, changing my unworthiness; O Lord, I receive your love.

O Lord I receive your love.



# The Prayers of the People

Pastor Teresa

As God's people, called to love one another,  
let us pray for the needs of the church,  
the whole human family,  
and all the world, saying: Hear our prayer.

That churches of all traditions, may  
discover their unity in Christ and  
exercise their gifts and clear  
communications in service of  
innovation of all,

we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine,  
and disease, and the air, soil, and waters  
cleansed of poison,  
we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land  
may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands,  
we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just  
priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young,  
educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and  
the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and  
healed,  
we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will preserve all who live and work  
in this city of Troy in peace and safety,  
we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial, especially\_\_\_\_\_:

We pray for the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God:  
**Hear our prayer.**

That you will accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest, who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God: **Hear our prayer.**

***Pastoral Prayer:***

*Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

We pray the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray,

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, Power and glory for ever and ever. (Lord's Prayer: **trespasses**)

**Amen**

**Offertory**

**The Gifts of the People**

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

**\*Doxology GTG 607**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Christ, all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore*

*Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*Offertory Prayer****Rev. Dr. Teresa**

God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen. ([John 3:14-21](#))

**\*Closing Hymn GTG**

"We Are Called."

GtG p. 749.

1. Come live in the light. Shine with the joy and love of the Lord

We are called to be the light for the Kingdom

To live in the freedom of the city of God

**Refrain:** We are called to act with justice

We are called to love tenderly

We are called to serve one another

To walk humbly with God

2. Come open your heart show your mercy to all those in fear

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So hatred and violence will be no more

3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love.

# Sending

## \*Charge:

Go and meditate on the Word of God, ruminare and fall in Love in his Presence in silence. For God loves you deeply than anyone would ever love you.

## \*Blessing

**Pastor Teresa**

Beloved, today God sends us out with a blessing and a practice. Repeat after me: (*breathe in*) God, fill me with Love ...(*breathe out*) and empty me of condemnation. May you carry this prayer with you this week, knowing that with every breath you breathe, you are blessed and sustained by Love who journeys with us in light and in darkness.

**Amen.**

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Acolyte:

Pastor and Presider: The Rev. Dr. Teresa Ko-Davis

Communion Servers:

Music Ministry Leader: Ms. Cindy Ciabotte

Accompanist: Mr. Tony Opalka

Praise Leader: Elder Ruth Pierpont

Liturgists: Richard Davis

Greeter/Usher Coordinator: Elder Karl Eden

Sunday School Teacher: Deacon MaryAnn Whelden

Church Bell Ringer: Larry Moss, Karl Eden

## VISION

### Cornerstone Community Church of Lansingburgh

To Experience the Good News of God's love in Jesus

Christ through worship and Christian education for all ages; to offer true spiritual sanctuary wherein all people can find forgiveness, grace,

faith, and renewal in Christ; And to use these gifts to strengthen our mission presence in the community. We warmly welcome all people of every age, race, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, economic or family status.

Our First Sundays, we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We observe an open Table at which any person who seek God's grace and blessing is welcome.

**"You Matter to God and You Matter to Us!"**