

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

PRELUDE "The Love of the Lord" J. Cotter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT "Forgive Us Lord" J. Lockwood

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(by Nancy Townley, modified)*

L: This is the fourth Sunday of Lent. We are on a journey, looking for evidence that God is with us.

P: Our hearts are filled with hope, a sign of the One who is, the one who was, the One to come--the One that God has sent.

L: We want to know for sure that everything is in God's care.

P: And so we cry to the heavens in our distress. Our cries are heard! God is responding in love and hope.

L: Let us come before God with expectant hearts and spirits! Let us hear the words of Jesus from the cross, "behold the one who came to save us!"

P: We are ready to receive the blessed gift of the Savior. AMEN.

* HYMN "The Servant Song" TFWS 2222

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE Carolyn & Frank Reynolds

Reader: We are nearing the end of our Lenten journey, and as disciples of our Lord we remember the events of long ago, when the twelve disciples entered Jerusalem with Jesus, but then deserted him a few days later, but we also remember God's faithfulness as Jesus made sure his mother was cared for. Today, we remember both, we remember that when things go well we often know God is with us, but when we are afraid, when we are at risk, we may abandon our faith. We extinguish this candle as a sign of our brokenness and as a symbol of our trust in Jesus Christ that, even in suffering, Jesus is faithful.

Prayer: Holy One, you have journeyed with us through the valley of the shadow, and will see us through to the other side. Help us to remain faithful to you, even in times of deepest doubt. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" W. Gladden

CHILDREN'S MEDITATION

RESPONSE "Jesus Loves Me" UMH 191

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

LENTEN INVITATION TO OFFERTORY

As we seek to share Jesus' story of love, sacrifice and suffering, which fulfills and conquers death, let us present our gifts of life and wealth, so that they may be used for the good of all people.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Christ Beside Me" TFWS 2166

* GIVING OUR GIFTS TO GOD "Give Thanks" TFWS 2036

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

SCRIPTURE John 19:26-27

SERMON

"The First Church"
*Rev. We Chang, Commonwealth East District Superintendent
NEAC Director of Connectional Ministries*

* HYMN "When the Poor Ones" UMH 434

* BENEDECTION

CHORAL BENEDECTION "Jesus Remember Me" UMH 488

POSTLUDE "When I survey this wondrous cross" I. Watts, L. Mason

* Stand as you are able

The flowers that adorn the altar are given by the Cauldwell Family.

Greeters: Karen Dean, Danna Dimock, & Marie Syverson

Ushers: Patrick Shanley & Mark Karsner

Altar Service: Sharon Mulcahy

A fully staffed nursery is available during worship.



To Donate online, use your phone camera to scan the QRC.

The Rev. We Chang was ordained as an Elder in 1996. Since then, he has strived to live out the connectional identity and mission as a United Methodist clergy and leader. He has led efforts to launch a number of ministry initiatives - NEAC healthcare task force, Mission Impossible and NE Justice for our Neighbors, and the NE Community Development Corporation. In 2017, he was named superintendent of the East District, now the Commonwealth East. Recently, Bishop Johnson named him Director of Connectional Ministries, starting July 1, 2023. Rev. Chang is married to Rev. Dr. Yoo-Yun Cho-Chang, and are the grateful parents of Hope Chang.