



# everything [in] between intention & action

## PRELUDE

7:30 Chorale Improvisation on “Angele Dei”

*Garrett Artman, Piano*

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*One: If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,*

**All: then we are in the right place.**

*One: If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,*

**All: then we are in the right place.**

*One: If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,*

**All: then we are in the right place.**

*One: God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.*

**All: So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.**

*One: With God’s help, may it be so.*

**All: Let us worship our all-loving God.**

▲ HYMN

“Ash Wednesday Comes and, Lord, We Hear”

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

TALLIS' CANON 8.8.8.8 (“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”)

Ash Wednesday comes, and Lord, we hear  
The word for which our spirits yearn;  
Amid this world's distress and fear,  
We hear your loving call: “Return!”

“Return to me with all your heart”  
With fasting, weeping, mourning, too.  
O God, we seek a brand new start,  
A new beginning here with you.

You call to us — the old, the young;  
You summon nations strong and weak.  
When we have drifted toward the wrong,  
You call us back, your way to seek.

O God most merciful and kind,  
Your love is not a prize we earn;  
Yet in our life with you we find  
The joy that comes when we return.

Biblical Reference: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Tune: Thomas Tallis, 1561 (“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”) (MIDI)

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▲ PRAYER OF APPROACH

God of the Cross, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
you put flesh and bones on your infinite and unconditional love.  
Be with us now as we begin again the Lenten journey  
and walk more faithfully the path Jesus shows us.  
In this time of worship, and in the days ahead,  
may we turn away from the distractions and false promises  
of the world around us.

May we let go of our fears and anxieties, our assumptions and half-truths,  
so that we may focus on the ultimate security and truth we find in you.  
Break through our spiritual blockades,  
that we might be rooted and grounded in the good news that gives us life,  
the love and grace we know in Jesus Christ. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 9:51-62

As the time approached when Jesus was to be taken up into heaven, he determined to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers on ahead of him. Along the way, they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival, but the Samaritan villagers refused to welcome him because he was determined to go to Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" But Jesus turned and spoke sternly to them, and they went on to another village.

As Jesus and his disciples traveled along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and the birds in the sky have nests, but the Human One has no place to lay his head." Then Jesus said to someone else, "Follow me." He replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and spread the news of God's kingdom." Someone else said to Jesus, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those in my house." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God's kingdom."

*One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.*

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## MEDITATION

*Everything [in] Between: Intention & Action*

## POEM

## “Both, Please”

It's one thing to speak of love. It's another  
to hold a newborn in your arms,  
to sing someone to sleep,  
to lean down and listen for their breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith. It's another  
to press your forehead to the floor,  
to cry out in prayer,  
to ask the hard questions and still  
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the Divine. It's another  
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,  
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,  
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns  
and whisper, Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It's one thing and another, so I pray,  
Give me both, please. Show me both, please.

## ▲HYMN #STF 2129

## “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

## INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

## CALL TO CONFESSION

*Lent is a season that invites us to be intentional.*

*Lent asks us, how will you go deeper these next six weeks?*

*How will you grow closer to God and your neighbor?*

*What will you do to strengthen your faith?*

*Much like Christ, Lent invites us to go deeper.*

*Despite our best efforts, that soul-tending work is often easier said than done.*

*However, instead of entering this season already feeling behind,*

*let us enter this season with honesty.*

*Let us enter this season aware of our hopes, and aware of the challenges.*

*Let us enter this season wrapped in God's grace.*

*Friends, join me in speaking honestly to God.*

*Join me in receiving mercy. Let us pray:*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*One: Jesus said, "Follow me."*

**All: And I said, let me get ready.**

*One: Jesus said, "Follow me."*

**All: And I said, just one minute!**

*One: Jesus said, "Follow me."*

**All: And I said, I'll be there soon!**

*One: The noise of this world is distracting, Lord,  
and we are afraid,*

**All: so we get stuck somewhere between our head and our heart.  
We get stuck somewhere between our intention and our action.**

*One: We know the invitation is simple, but the work is hard.*

**All: Jesus, forgive my delay.**

**I want to follow you.**

**Turn my intentions into actions.**

**Show me the way.**

**Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*One: Lent asks,*

**All: "How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?"**

*One: Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,  
regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,*

**All: we are not alone.**

*One: We are seen and loved by God. We are held in grace.*

**All: Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*One: People of God, the Lord be with you.*

**All: And also with you.**

*One: People of dust, lift up your hearts to God.*

**All: We lift them up to the One who created us.**

*One: People of ashes, give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**All: We offer praise and thanksgiving to the One who restores us to life.**

*One: [prayer continues...]*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER ("forgive us our sins")

### SHARING IN THE STORY, THE FEAST AND ASHES, AND PRAYER

*One: The gifts of God for the people of God.*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

*As the music plays, you are invited to come forward for the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper. Ashes will be placed on your forehead or hand in the sign of a cross. Take a communion cup (gluten free) and return to your seat where you can partake of the sacrament. Any who are unable to come forward will be served at their seat.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

7:30: "Stabat Mater" By Giovanni Pergolesi

I. Stabat Mater Dolorosa

III. O quam tristis et afflicta

*Abby Cross, Soprano*

*Christie Virtue-Herman, Alto*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who said to ordinary people, “Follow me,”  
and with his love, changed the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who tethers us to all of creation,  
nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith.

And we believe in the Creator  
who brings the sun over the horizon each morning,  
allowing every day to be a new beginning.

So with this new day,  
with Jesus’ invitation ringing in our ears,  
and the Holy Spirit’s tethering love,  
we realign our hopes with our words,  
our dreams with our prayers,  
our intentions with our actions.

Jesus, we believe. Guide our feet.

Amen.

## ▲ HYMN #PH 391

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

## ▲ BENEDICTION

*One: As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.*

**All: So let us move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that we do not go alone.  
God is with us in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.**

*One: Believe that good news, and go in peace.*

## POSTLUDE

7:30: “Stabat Mater” By Giovanni Pergolesi  
XII. Quando corpus morietur

Garrett Artman  
Abby Cross, Soprano  
Christie Virtue-Herman, Alto

# LENTEN PRACTICES

## Lent at FPCY

Ever feel like you're being pulled in too many or opposite directions? Or like the world around you is pulling apart at the seams? Do you yearn for deeper connection with God, one another and a more peaceful world?

Join us for a Lenten journey into the messy middle. With the help of our friends at A Sanctified Art, our theme for Lent this year is Everything [in] Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes. Guided by stories from the Gospel of Luke, we will discover how Jesus likes to disrupt the cultural and political polarities of his time to show us the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God.

This Lent, through our worship, prayer and reflection together, we are invited to meet God in the spaces in between the assumptions, beliefs and stories that divide us, so that we can join Jesus in God's reconciling, liberating, peace-making work in the world.

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So often we think about Lent as a time to give up something that may not be healthy or helpful to our lives. This year, regardless of what you might want to forego, let's commit ourselves to a spiritual practice – creating the time and space in our daily lives to focus more intentionally and contemplatively on God, Jesus and our faith. Here are four options:

**1.) Daily Email** — starting this morning. Anyone who is signed up for our weekly email will receive a daily email devotion called "The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find." These Lenten Daily Devotions come to us from Kate Bowler and the Everything Happens Project at Duke University. Kate Bowler is a professor, best-selling author and podcaster with an incredible story. Each day includes scripture and a short reflection, an opportunity to breathe/think/respond, and a blessing for the day. Also included is a QR code for a playlist and song for the day.

**2.) Join a Faith 4 Life Study**



## 3.) Give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) —

This special offering of the PC(USA) gives us a way to share God's love for justice by providing safety, sustenance and hope to people who lack access to food, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. Your kindness helps those who are fighting for their basic needs and changing structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice through the revolutionary act of sharing love.

## 4.) Participate in "40 Cans for Lent"

40 Cans for Lent is a tangible spiritual discipline, and one that directly contributes to the FPCY Food Pantry's ability to help an ever increasing number of hungry neighbors. We welcome cans of fruit, vegetables, tuna and beans, along with pasta, breakfast cereal, or shelf-stable milk.

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As you journey through Lent, may you come to know God's abiding presence and deep love for you - in the ups and downs, the messy middles, and especially, the hardest parts.

[www.FPCYorktown.org](http://www.FPCYorktown.org)

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