

**Sunday, March 23rd, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *“Magnificat, Sing Out My Soul” by Taizé Community*

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Call to Worship

Worship is a place to rest.

We breathe deeply here.

We still our aching bones.

We sit in the quiet.

We surround ourselves with music.

Worship is a place to rest.

Worship is a place to grow.

We listen for God’s word.

We invite it to challenge us.

We lean in with curiosity.

We ask questions.

Worship is a place to grow.

So, come into this space. Come rest and grow here.

For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.

Let us worship our gracious God.

***Hymn**

“Praise to the Living God”

NCH #8

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Prayer for Illumination

Creator God, Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in. Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth. And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends. So, as we turn to your text today, warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, amen.

Anthem

“For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter

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Scripture

Luke 13:6-9

Ted Anson

A Time for All God’s Children

***Hymn**

“Beneath the Soil”

please see insert

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Music of Reflection**Joys and Concerns****Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Prayer Response

“Taize, The Lord is My Song” by Taizé Community

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Call to Offering**Offertory**

**Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, we offer you these gifts, and pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

NCH #433

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Benediction

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.

So, may you move through this world with an open heart,

with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.

God is with you in the mountains,

in the valleys,

and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Benediction Response “Raise a Song of Gladness” by Taizé Community

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Postlude

Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

Beneath the Soil

WINCHESTER OLD 8.6.8.6

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by George Kirbye, 1592



Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's
Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more
The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will
In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the



growth too slow to see A trans - for - ma - tion
than you can pro - duce We each grow at a
turn to fruit in time For God made us to
Spi - rit is at work To nur - ture us to



not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves
diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots
grow and change as toward the sky we climb
bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985