Lent is here: a season for simplicity, reflection, confession, repentance, and preparation. Grounded in the everlasting promises of God, we remember who—and whose—we are. The word Lent comes from the Old English word *lencten*, alluding to the lengthening days. We use the color purple as a symbol of Jesus’ royalty. As spring begins to emerge around us, Lenten worship helps us prepare for the blossoming of Easter joy by guiding us on our journey toward the cross with Jesus.

If you’ve worshiped with Emanuel during Lent before, you will find familiar music in this liturgy. If you haven’t, we hope that the music will be a blessing to you. “Bless the Lord, My Soul,” “O God, Hear My Prayer,” “Ubi Caritas,” and “Jesus, Remember Me” are much-loved songs from Taizé, an ecumenical monastic community in France. The Kyrie is written by Marty Haugen, a composer of beloved hymns and liturgical music for Protestants and Catholics alike. All of these short songs are meant to be sung repeatedly as tools for meditation and prayer. They are easy to learn but grow richer with repetition. Extended repetition allows the worshiper to contemplate the simple texts deeply. These chants open us up like vessels to receive the presence and mystery of God. Simple chants are also easy to remember: don’t be surprised to find them stuck in your head throughout the week or rising to your attention just when you need them the most.

Though we can’t sing together in the same room this year, we are still singing together in virtual community. As you use this liturgy, remember that you are not singing or praying alone. The love of God surrounds us in virtual community and knits us together as one people of God.

Peace and blessings,
Rev. Linnéa Clark, Pastor
Stefanie Watson, Director of Music

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Welcome

Prelude

Prayer of Confession and Kyrie

We gather in the triune name of God:
who gives us their Word,
whose promise makes us one people,
who seals and delivers us.

In this season of Lent, we hear the stories of how God has formed us
out of dust and ash and promises
into God’s own people.
But time and again our commitment crumbles,
and we are scattered by sin.
Beloved, let us return to God,
confessing what tears us apart
so that God can put us back together.
Sing: Kyrie eleison…

God, we confess: we have sinned.  
**We have turned away from you,**  
away from one another,  
into ourselves.  
**We have allowed our love of you**  
to be supplanted by the fear of other things:  
death, suffering, weakness, want.  
**Our fear has fragmented**  
the bond of our common humanity,  
so we do not love one another as you first loved us.  
Help us.  
**Promise us**  
that even this brokenness can be made well.

Sing: Kyrie eleison…

**Assurance of Forgiveness**
Siblings in Christ, listen to this good news:  
God knew of our brokenness even before we knew it ourselves.  
In accordance with the ancient promise, God became dust:  
Jesus Christ came among us,  
to live and die and rise again.  
For his sake, + God forgives us all our sins.  
For his sake, God renews all God’s promises.  
For his sake, God remakes us  
as the body of Christ for the sake of the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.
Gathering Hymn

Prayer for Illumination
God who so loves this world, open our hearts to hear your promise come alive in our ancient scripture and our modern existence. Speak to us with tenderness, patience, and love. We trust the words you say, today and always. Amen.

Acclamation       Bless the Lord, My Soul

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads us into life.

Reading

Sermon

Hymn of the Day
Prayers of the People  O God, Hear My Prayer

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

God of promises, you hear us when we pray. We are grateful for a new day, for this community of worship and service, for the loved ones we call family. For what else are we grateful today?

You are invited to offer your prayers of thanksgiving in the livestream chat, aloud, or silently.

Sing: O God, hear my prayer...

God of promises, you answer when we call. We pray for your healing presence with people we know and people we will never meet. Hear the cries of your whole creation. For what else do we pray today?

You are invited to offer your prayers of intercession (need) in the livestream chat, aloud, or silently.

Sing: O God, hear my prayer...

God of promises, you listen to us whenever we pray, no matter what words we use. When words fall short, the Spirit sighs our prayers. Hold all for whom we pray in your loving embrace for the sake of your son Jesus, your promise of love come alive. Amen.
Lord’s Prayer
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we remember the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
   Source of all that is and that shall be,
   Father, Mother, Parent of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
   The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
   The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
   Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
   Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
      sustain our hope and come on earth.
With bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
   now and forever. Amen.
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Generous God, you promise to supply our need. We see your abundance everywhere in our lives. Receive the gifts we offer to you now. Use them to promise healing, hope, and wholeness to our New Brunswick community and the whole world. Amen.
Remember that you are God’s promise people,
knit together in God’s everlasting love.
Remember that you are healed and forgiven
by the strong promises of the Holy One.
Remember that God made you out of dust in God’s own image,
and God loves you with a fierce love
that will outlast time itself.
You are blessed in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
today and every day. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sending
With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
God has told you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice...
...to do justice...
...and to love kindness...
...to love kindness...
...and to walk humbly with your God...
...to walk humbly with our God. Amen.

Postlude