

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, February 18, 2024

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Deo Gracias

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

The congregation may stand.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

THE GREAT LITANY

(ELW 238)

The congregation is invited to stand and face the cross. Those who wish may follow the cross as it moves around the church.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together,

Holy God, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING I

Genesis 9:8-17

A reading from Genesis.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

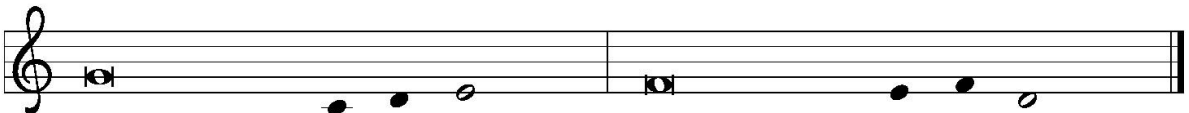
Psalms 25:1-10

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



- ¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**
- ⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting. Refrain**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹my transgressions;
 remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-¹ness, O LORD.
⁸**You are gracious and up-¹right, O LORD;**
therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.
⁹You lead the low-¹ly in justice
 and teach the low-¹ly your way.
¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹love and faithfulness**
to those who keep your covenant and your ¹testimonies. Refrain

READING II

1 Peter 3:18-22

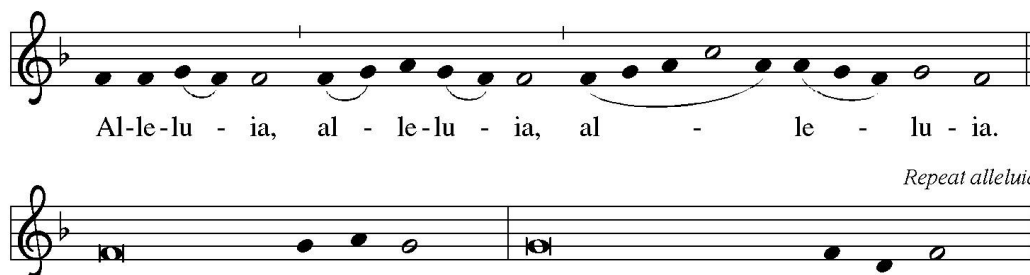
A reading from First Peter.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.



GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.
Vicar Alex Linn

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may be stand.
Oh, Love, How Deep (ELW 322)



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Holding onto God's Promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the world God loves. You are invited to pray through standing, kneeling, or sitting. Let us pray,

Pause

As we journey through the 40 days, guide us to seek new missions for the church. Pray for the work of God's people... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Through the wilderness of this earth, you have called us to discipleship.

Pray for God's creation... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We live together in our own towns, yet we are a people of your divine dominion. Pray for our communities... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

O God, we often fail to see your image in one another causing us to fall into sins of racism, sexism, hate, and all that we do to separate us from each other. Pray for transformation... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

For those who heart in mind, body, spirit, we pray for your hand. Pray for the healing of one another... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Pray for what you wish to share today...

pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Trusting God who raises us out of death, we give thanks for the people who have gone before us into your embrace. Pray for our beloved dead... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“A Prayer” and “Over the Hills” from African Romances op. 17

by Samuel Coleridge Taylor

Oh Lord, the hard won miles have worn my stumbling feet;
Oh soothe me with Thy smiles and make my life complete.
The thorns were thick and keen where'er I trembling trod;
The way was long between my wounded feet and God!

Over the hills and the valleys of dreaming, slowly I take my way;
Life is the night with its dream visions teeming, Death is the waking day.
Down through the dales and the bowers of loving, singing I roam afar;
Daytime and nighttime I'm constantly roving - Dearest one, Thou art my star.

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.

Create in Me A Clean Heart



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.**

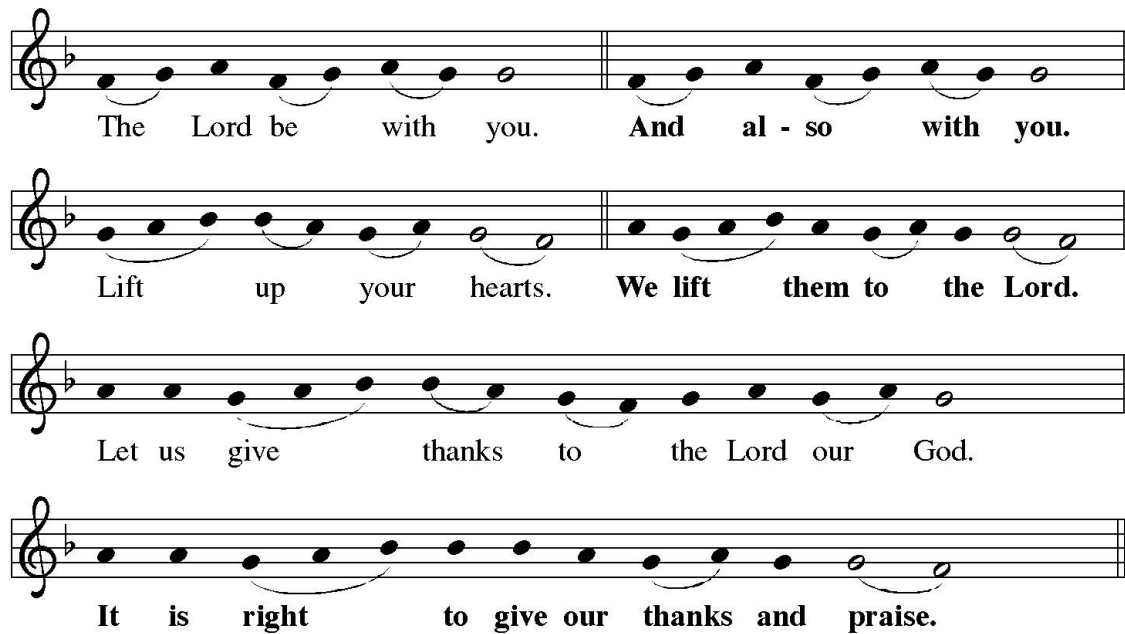
**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

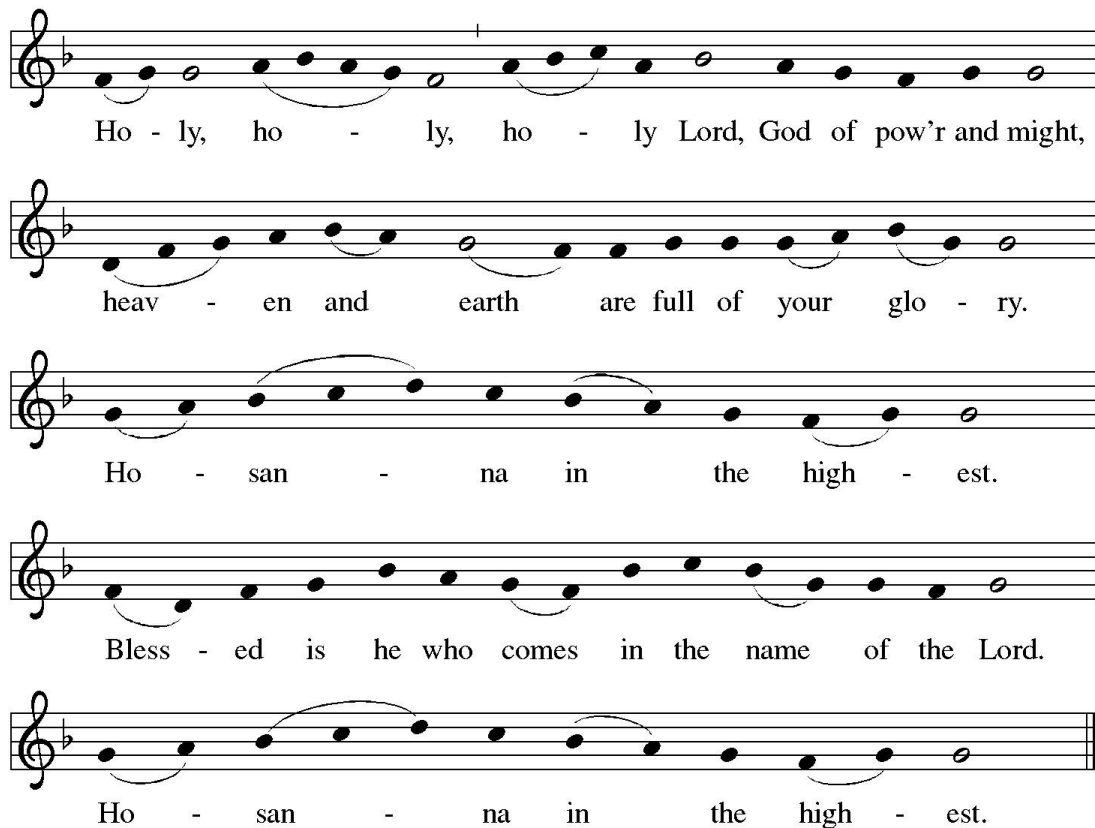
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks, heavenly God,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this the end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a mother's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the Blessed Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
stretching out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the world,
to establish a new covenant shown forth in his resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your holy people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334 verses 1, 2, 3 + Lent 1)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;
 give new strength to our believing,
 give us faith to live your word

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
 be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation,
 flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
 you have loved us as your own;
 stay with us through all temptation,
 make us turn to you alone.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
 may we be a blessing true;
 may we live and die confessing
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
 God who lives beyond our death,
 hold us close through each tomorrow,
 love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

Generous God,

At this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, Bread of Life.

Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

fill you with good courage,

and give + you peace.

Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davission, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

I am Thine, O Lord

arr. Monte Thomas

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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SERVING TODAY

Interim:

Director of Music:

Cantor:

Readers:

Ushers:

Altar Guild:

Livestream Camera:

Vicar Alex Linn

Luke Duroc-Danner

Audrey Neace

Bronwyn Parhad, Alla Rusz

Peter Hauser

Brandon Leinberger

Susan Crist

Michel Hauser

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Church Today

Today the children will be dismissed during the gathering hymn to go to class.

Family Promise

Our Family Promise host week will take place **Sunday, February 25-Saturday, March 2**. We are still in need of people to provide dinners and visit with the families in the evenings, to be an overnight host, and to provide snacks and breakfast & lunch items. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering area. You can also call Jan in the church office to sign up. Thank you!

Family Bowling Event on March 3

Children and families of St. John's are invited to go bowling as we strike up some fun Sunday afternoon March 3 from 3 to 4pm at the Wilmette Bowling Center. See Jason Shutters if you have any questions.



Tuesday Bible Study

Bible study meets on Tuesday mornings, 11am-12:00pm. with Vicar Alex Linn. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Helping Migrant Families

St. John's members can help by dropping off coats, hats, gloves, scarves, pants, and boots in designated boxes inside the **Wilmette Metra Station** at 722 Green Bay Road. The greatest needs are for children's outdoor clothing. Our donations will help migrants stay warm and feel acknowledged as they make their way to the Chicago Welcoming Center.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Buckley Crist
- † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard Rusz, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- † Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23
- † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23
- † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23
- † Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23
- † Family & friends of Marge Bennett, loved one of Kristen Danielsen, who died 11/17/22
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury
- † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing, 2/23/22
- † Lorraine Beutelspacher, moved to new home in Arizona 2/3/23

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was a British composer and conductor born to Anne Hare Martin, an Englishwoman, and Daniel Peter Hughes Taylor, a Krio man from Sierra Leone who studied medicine in London and later became an administrator in West Africa. Taylor was a talented violinist from a young age, and his family arranged for him to study at the Royal College of Music from age 15. He switched to composition and studied under Charles Villiers Stanford. Upon graduation, he was appointed a professor at the Chrystal Palace School of Music and began conducting the orchestra at the Croydon Conservatoire. During his lifetime, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor became so successful as a composer that he was called the African Mahler during his American tours. His greatest success was the three cantata set based on Longfellow's 1855 poem *The Song of Hiawatha*, and it was widely performed during his lifetime - only rivaled in popularity by Handel's *Messiah* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Monte Thomas (b. 1978) is an American educator, organist, and conductor. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, Thomas received his Bachelor's in Music from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where he studied organ with James Abbington. He earned his Masters of Music and Doctorate in Music at the University of Michigan where he studied both organ and conducting. He first began leading music in high school at the Holy Way Temple in Portsmouth, and he has continued to serve as Music Director in a variety of churches. He is a dedicated music educator specializing in elementary level music education, and he has founded the Carleton youth chorus with Detroit Public Schools. This postlude comes from a set of eight pieces composed for his own dissertational recitals.