

Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

ALL: We were like those who dream.

One: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

ALL: We rejoiced: "The Lord has done great things for us."

One: May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

ALL: Come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.

OPENING PRAYER:

One: Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, lamenting or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name.

ALL: Amen.

Hymn: "The Summons"

Sing The Faith #2130/Screen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

ALL: Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

One: Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God. Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until it fills this place and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always.

ALL: Amen.

PSALM READING: Psalm 130

SERMON: "The Final Ascent"

Rev. Dr. Brian Jones

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION