



Pine Street Church

Embrace Everyone. Inspire Life. Create More.



First Sunday of Lent

Sunday Morning Worship: Chapel Edition, week 4

Again & Again A Lenten Refrain

February 21st, 2021

“Again and again, God meets us where we are, but doesn’t leave us there. We shift from sinking sand to solid ground, navel-gazing to community, personal pietism to justice for all, and away from behaviors, both personal and systemic, that frustrate God’s vision for the world.”

—Rev. T. Denise Anderson,

Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice with the Presbyterian Mission Agency



In the season of Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We encourage you to walk through these weekly readings and prompts at your own pace throughout the season, following the rhythm that works best for you. May the art, reflections, and poetry strengthen and stretch you, shaping you into a more faithful disciple.

This Lent, may God's steadfast love cradle our laments. May God's grace wash over our weariness. And may we bring all of who we are to God—trusting that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, Pine Street Church welcomes all of God's children into the life of the Church regardless of gender-identity, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical limitation, educational background, or economic situation.

Prelude & Gathering Song – *I'll Fly Away* – Pine Street Band

Traditional

*Some bright morning when this life is
o'er
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away.*

*When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from these prison walls I'll fly,
I'll fly away.*

*I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away.*

*Oh, how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away.
I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away.*

Welcome & Announcements – David L'Hommedieu

Time of Centering & Call to Worship – Addison Daugherty & David L’Hommedieu

One: God meets us in the night—

*All: Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.*

One: God meets us in the light—

*All: Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.*

One: God meets us at the threshold—

*All: At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.*

*One: And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—*

All: Staying with us through the wilderness.

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.

Taizé – The Kingdom of God

A Sung Prayer from the Taizé Community in France

*The kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit
Come, Lord, and open in us
The gates to your kingdom*

Prayer of Invocation & Illumination – David L’Hommedieu

Holy God,

If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands.

No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—

Like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart.

This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more.

*So as we prepare to read scripture,
I pray that once again, you would meet us here.*

*Meet us in our hope and our heartache.
Meet us in our fear and our joy,
Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists.*

*And even if the water keeps running,
And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity,
Or a tangible sense that you are near;
Even if we do not hear the words, "This is my beloved,"
Ringing in our ears,
We will trust that you are near,
Always and forever meeting us here,
Running toward our hearts.
Gratefully we pray,
Amen.*

Contemporary Reading – Addison Daugherty

REMEMBER WHEN?

God never begins letters with the words,
"I hope this finds you well,"
For those words imply distance.

Instead, God begins God's letters to you with the words,
"Remember when?"

Beloved child,
Remember when we dipped our toes into the water?
Remember when we dove right in?
Remember when the ice cream dripped down our hands
And the cicadas sang their song,
And the seasons changed,
And the days were long?
Remember when we fell in love and the world was new?
Remember when our heart was broken?
Remember the tears?
Remember the long nights?
Remember when we laughed again and the sound surprised us?
Remember when we marched in the street?
Remember when we cast our vote?
Remember when we believed in hope?
Remember when?
I do.

That's what God's letters say.
So on this day, and every day to come, Remember: God is meeting you.
If you look back, you might remember when.

Poem by Rev. Sarah Are

The Gospel Lesson – Addison Daugherty
Mark 1:9-15

Song for Reflection – *As We Journey Through the Desert*
By Rev. J. Andrew Daugherty

*As We Journey Through the Desert
forty days to fast and pray
Christ our bread, wine, word, & power,
be the ways and means of grace.
O we seek your spirit holy
open hearts, and open hands
Make us whole, Lord, We are waiting
Live your truth through us again*

*May our souls breathe free with beauty
and the strength to bear a song
Through the dark night of our suffering
though a thousand winters long
We will walk with Christ to Calv'ry
on the stony road he trod
Not alone to face our sorrows
Friend of Jesus child of God*

*May our souls breathe free with beauty
and the strength to bear a song
Through the dark night of our suffering
though a thousand winters long
We will walk with Christ to Calv'ry
on the stony road he trod
Not alone to face our sorrows
Friend of Jesus child of God*

Pastoral Meditation – Rev J. Andrew Daugherty

Taizé of Confession – *Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God*
By David L'Hommedieu

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Lenten Call to Confession – David L'Hommedieu

*Again and again, God meets us where we are.
God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget.*

*Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.
And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.*

Family of faith, please pray with me.

Lenten prayer of Confession – Addison Daugherty & David L'Hommedieu

*One: God who meets us where we
are—
There is nowhere we can go that you
are not.*

*All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness, and
even in between, you were there, Saying
aloud, "This is my beloved."*

*One: We know that you are with us
too— In the good, the bad, and
everything in between— But so often we
act like we are alone.*

*All: Instead of coming to you with our
hurt, we hold it in or cast it onto others.*

*Instead of coming to you with our joy, we
credit ourselves and offer you nothing.*

*One: How can we long for a deeper
relationship with you While living like
you are nowhere to be found?*

*All: Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every
step, you are there.*

*One: You are the God who meets us
where we are.*

*All: Before and behind, above and below,
within and around. Amen.*

Lenten Words of Forgiveness – Addison Daugherty & David L'Hommedieu

*One: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:
God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new
beginning,*

And God calls you beloved.

All: We are washed by the water.

We are called beloved.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Lenten Affirmation of Faith – David L'Hommedieu

*We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,
All at once and in every moment.*

*We believe that God meets us where we are—
In heartbreak and high hopes,
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,
In joy and in suffering,
In loneliness and in connection,*

*In sanctuaries and in living rooms,
In marches and in waiting rooms.*

*We believe that nothing we do or leave undone
Can distance us from God's love.
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.
Again and again, God meets us where we are
And invites us into wholeness.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.*

Taizé – Holy Spirit

A Sung Prayer from the Taizé Community in France

Holy Spirit come to us.

Benediction – Rev. Andrew Daugherty

Postlude & Sending Song – Beautiful Things

By Gungor

*All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us*

*All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in you
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust*

*You make me new,
You are making me new*

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Worship Leaders:

Rev. Andrew Daugherty, senior pastor
David L'Hommedieu, director of worship & arts, guitar, vocals
Addison Daugherty, worship leader
Ryan Connell, music director, piano
Kristin Gornstein, vocals
Phil Norman, cello, bass
Justin Hoffenberg, violin