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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director  
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 09, 2025

9:45 AM

### **First Sunday of Lent**

### ***Everything [in] Between<sup>1</sup> Stranger & Neighbor***

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **JOYS & CONCERNS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THEME**

### **PRELUDE**

### **POEM**

*Gray*

by Cindy Hogentogler, read by Caitlin Damon

### **CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

L: Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**C: Who is my neighbor? How can I help? What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?**

L: Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**C: So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious, and may we look for God.**

L: This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

**\*GATHERING HYMN NCH # 539** (see below)

*Servant Song*

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Richard Gillard, 1977

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## **\*TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

**C: You have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Family of faith, When we set limits on love,

**C: God loves extravagantly.**

L: When we forget that we are neighbors,

**C: God claims us as God's own.**

L: When we judge, hold back, or harm,

**C: God surrounds us with grace.**

L: There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God.

**C: This is the good news of the gospel.**

L: It is this good news that assures us that this day you are forgiven, we all are forgiven by the grace of God.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*ACT OF PRAISE UM HYMNAL # 558** (refrain, v. 2, refrain, see below)

*We Are the Church*

**ALL SING: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages too, from all times and places.**

**I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Luke 10:25-37 (CEB)*

**SERMON**

# I Saw a Stranger

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr.

♩ = 80

Piano



1. I saw a stran-ger on the road in need of help and  
 2. I laid there des-perate by the road in need of help and  
 3. In our em-brace the mem - o - ry re - turned from E - den's

5



care. No clues to their i - den - ti - ty, just hu - man flesh laid bare. A  
 care. As one by one they passed me by, too bus - y or too scared. Then  
 dust. Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom I can trust. The

10



thought had flut - tered through my mind: "Is this one of my own?" My  
 one ap-proached and my first thought was "Do they mean me harm?" To  
 ar - ti - fi - cial walls we build a - round the tribes we claim make

14



tri - bal mind made me for - get that they're bone of my bone.  
 my sur-prise they met my eyes and held me in their arms.  
 us for - get the gos - pel truth: "Be - lo - ved" is your name.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*What Love Is This*

by Dengler

## **A TIME FOR SHARING**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 249 NCH** (see next page)

*Peace I Leave with You My Friends*

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **References**

<sup>1</sup>The Worship Liturgy was by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

<sup>2</sup>The Poem Gray was written by Cindy Hogentogler

<sup>3</sup>©Anna Strickland, 2024. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

**Welcome Team Members—**Jesse & Nancy Smith, Faye Heal

**Liturgist—**Stella Fletcher

**Tech Team—**Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, & John Schriver

**Guest Accompanist—**Amy Peck

# Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Ray Repp, 1967

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*Refrain*

Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my

6  
peace, in all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends.

13  
I give to you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

19  
1. To share God's love is why I came, to show God's  
2. Take my hand and be at peace; the spir - it  
3. With this love now all will know that lone - li -

24  
kind - ness with out end. Go now, my friends, and do the  
of our love I send. And with this love you will be  
- ness is at an end. Re-joice, my friends, al - though I

30  
same, un-til I come a - gain.  
free, un-til I come a - gain.  
go, for I will come a - gain.

*To Refrain*