

First Sunday in Lent
Illinois Valley Cluster Service
First Christian Church, Peoria, Illinois

4:00 p.m.

February 26, 2023
**indicates standing, if able*

MEDITATION

The world says: Compassion is a feeling...God says: Compassion is a decision.

Fellowship of the Church

Video Introduction of our Speaker, The Rev.Vy Nyugen, Week of Compassion

Prelude

A Moment of Silence

The candle next to the Christ Candle represents prayers for peace in Ukraine.

**Gathering Praise – God is Here! (tune: Come Thou Fount)*

**Call to Worship*

Leader: What happens when we love God with all our hearts?

People: Our hearts beat with God's compassion.

Leader: What happens when we love God with all our minds?

People: Our minds are open to God's point of view.

Leader: What happens when we love God with all our strength?

People: Our strength is renewed by God's power.

Leader: What happens when we love God today in all we do?

People: Our praise will be genuine, our worship sincere.

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: Gracious God, through Jesus Christ you showed us love. He walked with the unclean and unloved, shared wisdom, feasted with the outcast, brought healing into lives and challenged the status quo. This is love. He spoke your word, walked a painful road to the Cross, shared living water, bread of life, brought hope to the world and died for the sake of all. It is in deep gratitude that we pray the prayer he taught us... Our Father....

Scripture Reading – Lamentations 3:17-23

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Kevin Wolfe

Moment for the Children

Hannah Fitch

Anthem – *Kyrie Eleison, A Lenten Prayer*—Brian Childers

Eureka Christian Church Choir
Kathryn Cunningham, Director
Carol Bennett-Barker, Accompanist

Message – *"Rise Up Anew"*

Vy Nguyen

**Hymn of Commitment – Today We All are Called to Be Disciples (tune: Kingsfold)*

Call to Prayer

Kevin Wolfe

Leader: When we love one another, God's love is made complete in us. Let us bring to God our prayers for love and justice.

People: Together we come to God in need of prayer.

Leader: Loving God, we pray for the sick and lonely.

People: We pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.

Leader: We pray for those who cry out for dignity.

People: We pray harder for those who will not listen.

Leader: We pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

People: We pray harder for those who exploit them.

Leader: We pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

People: We pray harder for those who discriminate against them.

Leader: We pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

People: We pray harder for those in power who cater to the greedy and ignore those who struggle for survival.

Leader: The light of your love, God, reveals to each of us those ways we ourselves turn away from the needs of this world.

People: We pray for our eyes to be opened and we ask....

All: Is it I, Lord?

Prayer of the People

Communion Hymn: *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*
(tune: Beach Spring)

The Lord's Supper

All: "Here we celebrate that all people are welcome at this table of God's grace."

The Lord's Supper is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. No matter what your background or denomination may be, you are invited to receive the elements as they are served.

Video: Circle of Compassion

Tithes and Offerings

(If you are able, please come forward at this time to place your offering in the plate on the communion table.)

The offering received at each of the 2023 Illinois Valley Cluster Lenten services will be contributed to the Week of Compassion...Circle of Compassion (Illinois Valley Cluster). Please give generously, making checks out to Illinois Valley Cluster.

+Doxology

#46

+Benediction

+Congregational Response (tune: Ash Grove)

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,

The tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,

Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving

Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

+Postlude

Next Cluster Lenten Service – March 5, 4:00 p.m., Mackinaw Christian Church, Dwight Winnett, speaker



February 26, 2023



**First Christian Church
Peoria, IL**