

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.



Lenten Service

February 25, 2026

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask a council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

P - Our Bible has a whole book called Lamentations.

C - The word lament means to express sorrow, deep regret, or to mourn.

P - Lament is a cry of sorrow, a complaint to God, a song of sadness or a poem expressing grief.

C - Lament is a form of honest prayer to God amidst pain.

P - We understand what it is like to lament.

C - Our tears have watered the ground.

P - We know what it is like to mourn, and wail.

C - We have known sorrow.

P - Tonight we lament together because of loss and injustice.

C - Let us worship the One who understands.

Opening Hymn - Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW #413

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer

P- Holy Mystery of Unfailing Mercy,
C - You have walked with us through the days of sadness. You understand our grief and anger. You have already planted hope in the cracks. Thank you for breathing courage into our bones. Amen

Hymn - Amazing Grace ELW #779 vs 1

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now, I'm found. Was blind, but now, I see.

Scripture Reading

Sermon - The Book of Lamentations

Offering Hymn - Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul! the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly friend
Thru' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul! your God does undertake
To guide the future as he has the past;
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still, my soul! when dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,
Then shall you better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul! your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul! the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Offering Sung Response Doxology

C - Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offering Blessing

P - Holy One,

C - we no longer sit in an attitude of scarcity; we live in a spirit of abundance. So, we give from gratitude that is already manifest. Bless what we have given you: coins, bills, pledges, intentions, and courage. Multiply them into shelter for the weary, bread for the hungry, and justice for the oppressed. Amen

Hymn - Nearer My God to Thee vs 1

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee! E'en though it be a cross,
that raiseth me, still all my song shall be, nearer, my God to Thee;
nearer, my God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Prayer of St. Francis (*Responsively*)

P - Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

C - Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

P- where there is injury, pardon;

C - where there is doubt, faith;

P - where there is despair, hope;

C - where there is darkness, light;

P - and where there is sadness, joy.

C - Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

P - to be understood as to understand;

C - to be loved as to love.

P - For it is in giving that we receive;

C - it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

P - and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

C - Amen.

Closing Hymn - God Be With You Till We Meet Again ELW #536

God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

P - Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

C - Thanks Be to God!

Postlude