



Traditional Service Bulletin



The Art of Living Lightly

February 26, 2023

The Art of Living Lightly: What
Jesus Really Wants Us to
Give Up for Lent

1st Sunday of Lent

8:30 AM: Prelude: "O For a Thousand Tongues/Crown Him with Many Crowns/Holy, Holy, Holy"...arr. Dino Kartsonakis

Cathy McGill (piano)

[Selected music is CCLI Song Select, One License, Public Domain, or written permission was provided by composer or arranger.]

11:00 AM ONLY: Prelude "The Bible" and "Jesus Loves Me"

The Wee-Singers (2-to-5 year olds) and Anna Kirby and Sandy Walker (co-directors)

11:00 AM ONLY: Prelude "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Christy Semsen and arr. by Daniel Semsen

The Joyful Singers (1st thru 5th grades), Kay Lee and Madonna Moore (co-directors) and Garth Olson (keyboard)

Celebration of Community

- For visitors and members, we have QR codes that will take you directly to our visitor information, online bulletin, upcoming events/news and giving page. Just open your camera and scan the QR code, no app necessary. There are also paper visitor forms if you would like to fill those in and drop them off in the baskets as you leave the service.

- Lenten Small Groups are beginning. The groups will be studying a book called "Sacred Rhythms." To register, please go to saxegotha.org/winter. If you would like to host a group, please email Helen Harrison Ham hhham@saxegotha.org.

- A Marriage Class will be held on Sunday Afternoons from 4-5:30. The class will study a book called "Your Time Starved Marriage." Go to saxegotha.org/winter to register.

- LaVie Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Drive - Fill the bottle with monetary donations and return by Monday, February 27.

- Save the Date: "Let's Glow" Glow in the Dark Indoor Easter Egg Hunt. Saturday, March 25 in the Gym from 9-11 am. Family fun for all ages - bring a dry/canned good to donate to Mission Lexington.

We Gather to Worship

Introit "Jesus, Keep Me Near" by Ellen Purchase

Worship Vocal Team or Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano) and Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

* Call to Worship

One: Christ calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

ALL: In Christ, we find rest.

One: Christ calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

ALL: In Christ, we see God's ways.

One: Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

ALL: In Christ, we know God's love.

One: Come, for Christ calls us here.

* Opening Hymn #166 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (vs. 1-5) [GTG] [Sung to the hymn tune, AZMON-#21-CH-Key of Ab] arr. by Garth Olson]

Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano), and Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ) and CONGREGATION

Prayer of Confession

God of wilderness wanderings,
many things tempt us;

many forces cause our feet to stray.

Save us from the time of trial,

for we easily succumb to temptation;

we often heed voices that cause us to stray.

Return us to the garden of your abiding love,

for we yearn to walk with you

with faithful hearts and upright spirits.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Christ rescues us from our foolish ways
and from our misguided deeds.
In Christ, we are made perfect,
even in our imperfection.
In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.

* *Gloria Patri #813 "Glory Be to the Father"*

Worship Vocal Team, Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano), and Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

* **Affirmation of Faith**

In all crises and trials of our life we call upon [God] alone, and that by the mediation of our only mediator and intercessor, Jesus Christ. For we have been explicitly commanded: "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me" (Ps. 1:15).

Moreover, we have a most generous promise from the Lord who said: "If you ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you" (John 16:23), and: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28).

The Second Helvetic Confession 5.024

Children's Message

* **Passing of the Peace**

Christ offers us God's gentle and humble heart. May we in turn offer our gentle and humble hearts to one another with signs of love and peace.

One: Peace be with you,
ALL: and also with you.

* **Hymn #182 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (vs. 1-3) [GTG] [Tune is KINGSFOLD-#291-CH]**

Worship Vocal Team or Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano) and Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

Invitation to the Offering

Give Online: SaxeGotha.org
Text: 803-302-3499
Mail: 5503 Sunset Blvd, Lexington, SC 29072
Place in Basket with Usher as you leave

* *Doxology #815 "Praise God From Who All Blessings Flow"*

Garth Olson, Worship Vocal Team or Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano), Ruth Brannen (pipe organ) and CONGREGATION

Offertory Blessing and Prayer

Pocket Anthem "O God, Thou Faithful God by Paul Manz

Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

Offertory

8:30 "O God, Thou Faithful God" by Paul Manz

Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

11:00 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Bob Burroughs | Sanctuary Choir and Cathy McGill (piano)

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We Hear God's Word

Bumper Video

Special Announcement:

The Flowers that Grace the Sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Keith and Ellie Marquis by Keith and Wendy Gaillard.

Message "The Art of Living Lightly"

Title: The Art of Living Lightly

Core

Jesus invites us to come to him, to take his yoke, to learn from him, and to find our rest.

Call

Which of these four invitations feels most needful to you right now?

Ask the Lord to give you a way to respond to this invitation in a practical way this week.

Is there one of these that you notice yourself resisting?

Reflect and journal about that – why is this so hard for me? What beliefs about myself and about God that I've been gripping does this challenge?

Compel

I hope this inspires a yearning in people for relating to God in a new, more gracious and free way.

Text: Matthew 11:25-28 NIV

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

We Respond to God's Word

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

* *Closing Hymn #479 "Softly and Tenderly" (vs. 1-4) [CH]*

Worship Vocal Team or Sanctuary Choir, Cathy McGill (piano) and Ruthie Brannen (pipe organ)

* **Invitation and Benediction**

Postlude "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" by J. Payne

Ruthie Brannen (organ)

* **Congregation is asked to stand if able.**
