

An Invitation to Return

Lenten Service of Reconciliation

Entrance Hymn: *Let us sing together:*

Come back to me with all your heart,
don't let fear keep us apart.
Trees do bend, tho' straight and tall;
so must we to others' call.
*Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living
deeply our new life.*

The wilderness will lead you
to your heart where I will speak.
Integrity and justice
with tenderness you shall know.
*Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living
deeply our new life.*

You shall sleep secure with peace;
faithfulness will be your joy. *Long*
*have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply
our new life.*

Celebrant: Lent is the season of returning, returning to God.
We are coming back to where we belong –to the heart of
God.

Minister of the Word/All: Lord, may I return from
selfishness to sensitivity,
from greed to generosity
from coldness to caring,
from intolerance to compassion ,
from isolation to community.
Help me to face the darkness of my past,

open me to the loving words of Your gospel.
Give me healing peace and forgiveness.
This is the prayer that we make, in the name of Jesus, who
is Lord, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, You are waiting, hand outstretched
in care. Lord, have mercy.

Minister of the Word/All *Lord, have mercy.*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, You are waiting, always patient,
always compassionate. Christ, have mercy.

All: *Christ, have mercy.*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, You are waiting, always welcoming,
always loving. Lord, have mercy.

All: *Lord, have mercy.*

Call to Repentance

Minister of the Word: Turn back to the Lord and forsake
your sins; pray in His presence and lessen your offence.
Return to the Most High and turn away from iniquity and
hate intensely what He abhors. How great is the mercy of
the Lord and His forgiveness for those who return to Him.
All: *Bring us back, Lord God of hosts, show us Your mercy
and we will be saved.*

Minister of the Word: “Even now,” declares the Lord,
“Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping
and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments.
Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and
He relents from sending calamity.” (Joel 2: 12-13)

All: *Bring us back, Lord God of hosts, show us Your mercy and we will be saved.*

Minister of the Word:

Return, My people , to the LORD, your God.

Your sins have been your downfall!

Return to the LORD.

Say to him: “Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously.” (*Hosea: 14:1-2*)

All: *Bring us back, Lord God of hosts, show us Your mercy and we will be saved.*

Celebrant: Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin. In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:6-11)

Examination of Conscience

Act of Sorrow

Minister of the Word/All: *O my God, I thank You for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and for not loving You. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.*

Individual Confession: Replaced by a short period of reflection

Celebrant: Let us say together **the Lord's Prayer**

Sign of Peace

Celebrant: Let us offer each other the sign of peace, a sign of reconciliation with God, the community and with ourselves.

Blessing

Celebrant: May the cross of Jesus be for us the way to risen joy

Minister of the Word/All: Amen

Recessional Hymn: *Let us sing together:*

Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence
Of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see, He has given to me,
And his giving is gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment,
Have been blessed by the strength of His love.
At the turn of each tide, He is there at my side,
And his touch is as gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned from his presence,
And I've walked other paths, other ways,
But I've called on his name, in the dark of my shame
And his mercy was gentle as silence.