



Professor of Jewish Mysticism and beloved author, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, said this: "Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement... Get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed."

First Sunday of Lent: Wonder

March 9, 2025 10:30 AM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Christ the Life of All the Living"

Anton Wilhelm Leupold

(* *Indicates that all are invited to stand*)

*LENTEN INVITATION

One: Awe-inspiring God, we come together this day

because we need to be reminded to see through the lens of wonder.

All: Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.

One: Forgive us when we focus only on what's wrong

rather than allowing the right and good to show us the way forward.

All: Be with us on this journey as we seek again to marvel at all your works of love!

*PASSING THE PEACE

*GATHERING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #1 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might.
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Your life is life-giving to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.**

**So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
all praise we now render as your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of life hiding you.**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "Lift Thine Eyes" Russell Robinson

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

CONTEMPORARY READING

an excerpt from Monica C. Parker, author of The Power of Wonder

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 Pew Bible p. 503

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “In the Bulb There is a Flower”#433 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: “Visio Divina”



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THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Pavane" Gabriel Faure
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: tune #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God, Creator of us all, Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

* COMMISSIONING HYMN "You are Salt for the Earth, O People" #181

New Century Hymnal

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

***Refrain:* Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;**

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! *Refrain*

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! *Refrain*

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!

Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! *Refrain*

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata in D Minor"

Johann Ernst Eberlin

Worship Endnotes: Various worship elements are adapted from
www.worshipdesignstudio.com

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Lent Week 1 reflection and activity: Beauty and Wonder

What are some of the places you visit and people you see every day? Take a photo of your kitchen table, your front porch, your desk at work. Perhaps ask a loved one to be a portrait subject. Celebrate the beauty found in the ordinary stuff of life. Send Pastor Sarah any pictures you'd like to share with the congregation, at smccann@hopeuccstl.org

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