



Epilogue by T. Denise Anderson

WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 22, 2026
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
614 Griffis Street, Cary, NC 27511
www.carypresbyterian.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 10:30 A.M.

Gathering

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Gathering Chime

Prelude

Andante in E Minor

Rinck

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit

Just As I Am, without One Plea (v. 1)

No. 442

***Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!***

*Call to Worship

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**Welcome to those hungry for justice
and those desperate for mercy.**

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

*Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

No. 435

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God,
we love to live our lives by the rules.**

**We love clear answers.
 We love right and wrong.
 We love swift justice.
 We love to pick up stones,
 but you show us another way.
 You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
 You prioritize mercy over legality.
 You prioritize people over tradition.
 You prioritize love over everything.
 Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
 Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws
 than to each other or to you.
 Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
 Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
 With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

Arr. Johnson

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.
 Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

CCLI# 3015474

Assurance of Pardon

***Response**

Let Us Return to the Lord

Come, let us re - turn to the Lord.
You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are
crushed, God will bind you up.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the first line of the response, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line, ending with a double bar line.

Word

Prayer for Illumination

Matthew Simmons

Scripture Reading

John 8:2-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 23:23-26

Message

*Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness
Tell Me Something Good*

Paul Lang

***Hymn**

Let Us Remember

Strickland/Stebbins



What is im - por - tant? What mat - ters more?
We've been shown mer - cy all of our lives
Fol - low - ing Je - sus, liv - ing in truth
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?



Hu - man con - nec - tion or keep - ing score?
By the cre - a - tor of hu - man - kind
We re - main faith - ful to our roots
To re - main hum - ble, lov - ing, and just



In our pur - suit of jus - tice and truth
So when we're in a po - si - tion to judge
When those roots lead us out - side the lines
Keep - ing the heart of the gos - pel in mind



Let us re - mem - ber: we fall short, too
Let us re - mem - ber: they're just like us
Let us re - mem - ber: faith is a - live
Let us re - mem - ber: do what is right

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Time With Our Children

Jennifer Pierce

Responding

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

Search Me, O God
Chancel Choir; Heidi Sue Ross, Flute

Hill

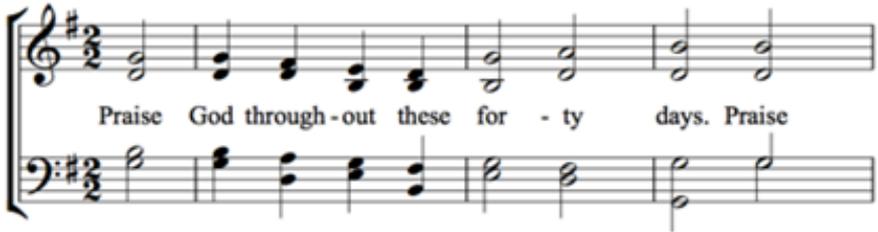
*Search me, O God, and know my heart today;
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.
Search me, and see if there be some wicked way in me;
Cleanse me from ev'ry sin and set me free.*

*I praise you, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;
Fulfill your Word, and make me pure within.
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;
Grant my desire to magnify your name.*

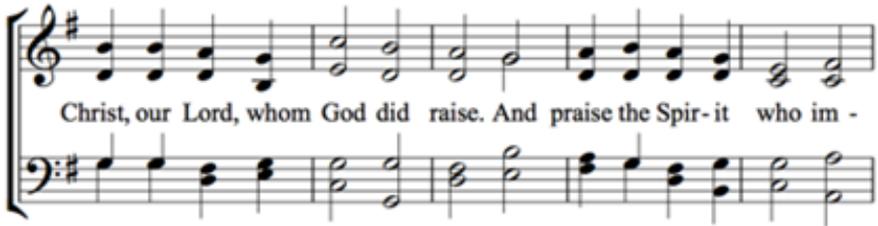
*Lord, take my life, for I would live for you;
Fill my poor heart with your great love so true.
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;
I now surrender; Lord, in me abide.*

*O Holy Spirit, revival comes from you;
Send a revival, my own heart renew.
Your Word declares You will supply our ev'ry need;
For blessings now, O Lord, I humbly plead.
Search me, O God, I humbly plead.*

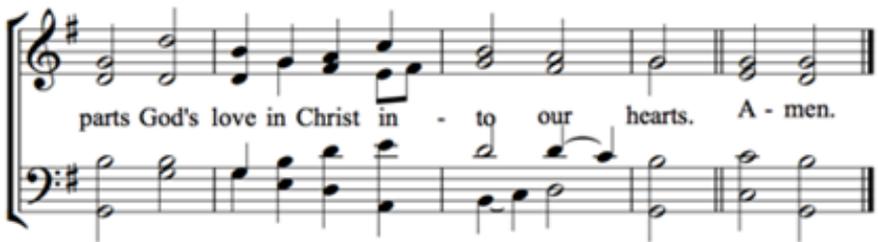
***Lenten Doxology**



Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise



Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -



parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Lord in your goodness: Hear our praise; Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

***Hymn** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (vv. 1-4)* No. 649

***Charge and Blessing**

***Response** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (v. 5)* No. 649
(See previous hymn)

***Postlude** *Chaconne* Couperin

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

You are invited to share Christ's peace with those around you.

Today's Worship Service Participants

Ministers: Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang, Rev. Paul Burgess

Music Director: Ed Yasick

Choir: Chancel Choir

Flute: Heidi Sue Ross

Lay Reader: Matthew Simmons

Children's Time: Jen Pierce

Ushers: Scott Walker, Leah Burton,

Su Johnson, Julie Page

Tech: Rachel Campbell, Ken Worsham

Slides: Su Johnson



Original Hymn for “Tell Me Something Good”

by Anna Strickland for *A Sanctified Art*

Title of Hymn

“Let Us Remember”

inspired by John 8:2-11, Matthew 23:23, Micah 6:8

Author Statement

My mother has frequently said to me, “I’d rather err on the side of love.” It’s her political stance, her theological stance, her entire posture toward the world. And I think that’s really very Christ-like. Jesus didn’t discard the law. In fact, he said he came to *fulfill* the law. But when it came down to following the letter of the law or showing mercy, he showed mercy. He healed on the Sabbath, touched the unclean, and prevented a woman from being stoned to death for her crime.

Jesus’ criticism of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:23 reminded me of Micah 6:8, a core text for my church alongside many others. What matters? Justice. Mercy. Faithfulness. Humility. May we remember this in all of our actions.



Fifth Sunday in Lent

the good news is...

rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness



Epilogue

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 8:2-11

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

I often wonder about the backstory of the woman from John 8:2-11. What were her circumstances? How did they “catch” her in the act of adultery? *In flagrante delicto?*⁸ Was it less graphic than that? Was she allowed to explain herself? Did she protest? If she was about to be stoned, what happened to the person with whom she was accused? Was this a loving relationship? Was it even consensual?

Whatever her story, the Pharisees bring her to Jesus expecting him to uphold the law’s punitive prescription. Jesus knows it’s a trap. If he concurs with the law, he initiates and must bear witness to an act of extreme brutality that would traumatize anyone who had to watch. If he counters the law,

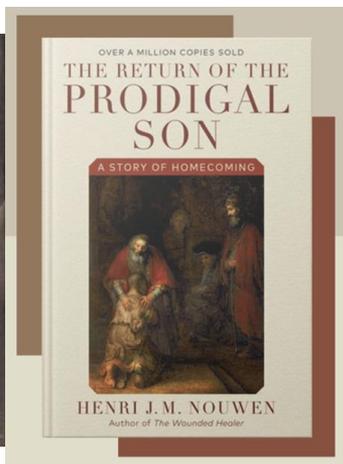
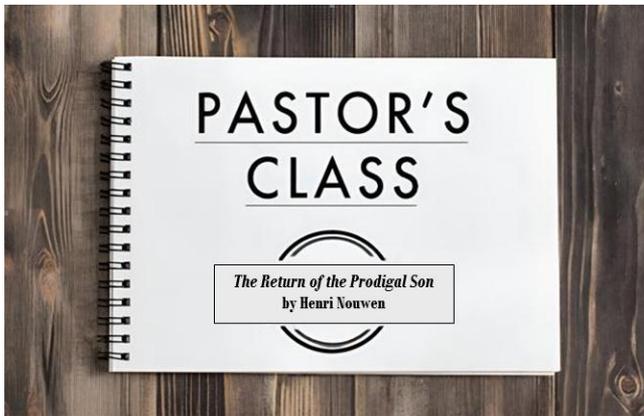
he’s a heretic and should probably be stoned himself. But he outsmarts them and turns their self-righteousness and rage back onto them.

In what should have been the end of her life’s story, this woman now finds herself standing. Whole. Alive. Freed to a new future. And through it all, Jesus is just drawing on the ground—like you do!

I wanted to show this woman standing in her wholeness, right after the crowds have dispersed and right before Jesus rises to meet her as an equal. She’s backlit in a way that suggests the sun has set, indicating the end of a saga. What will she do at the end of a nightmare with a new life ahead of her? What decisions do we face at the dawn of a second chance? —Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Look

Contemplate the woman in the image. What do you imagine is her backstory? What do you dream for her future?



The Pastor's Class

In the Fellowship Hall Annex at 9:15.

the class is currently studying

Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*,

Nouwen's sensitive reflection on the story from Luke 15:11-31
as well as Rembrandt's painting of the same name.

Pastor Paul says: 'I expect that this study of the book will take a few weeks. I have put it in the church master calendar for three to begin with.'

The book is available by order from Amazon
and copies are also in stock at area Barnes & Noble stores.

LENTEN STUDY: *TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD*

A thoughtful conversation about artwork, reflections, and poetry
in the 'Tell Me Something Good' devotional booklet
from *A Sanctified Art*. resumes in the parlor
on **Sunday mornings, today and March 29 at 9:15 a.m.**

This Week at Cary Presbyterian Church

Website and Online Member Directory: www.carypresbyterian.org

Sunday, March 22 5th Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i> (FH Anx)
	9:15 a.m.	Lenten Study: <i>Tell Me Something Good</i> (Parlor)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
	11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Be The Hands Coffee & Treats Event (Fellowship Hall) More Light Team (High School Room)
Monday, March 23	11:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting (Parlor)
	6:15 p.m.	GSA Jr. Troop 362 (Youth Area)
	6:30 p.m.	BSA Troop 232G (100/102)
	6:30 p.m.	Wake Co. Crime Prevention Banquet (F. Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 232 Den Meetings (C. Ed. Bldg.)
	7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee (Parlor)
Tuesday, March 24	7:00 p.m.	BSA Troop 232B (Youth Area)
Wednesday, March 25	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 26	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Connections Group (Fellowship Hall Annex) Health & Wholeness Team (Zoom)
Friday, March 27	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	CPP Conscious Discipline Parent Meeting (100) Courage, Strength, & Hope / Alateens (Youth) Al-Anon / Courage, Strength, & Hope (101/102)
Saturday, March 28		
Sunday, March 29 6th Sunday in Lent	9:15 a.m.	Children's Faith Formation: K-5 th Grade (C. Ed. Wing)
	9:15 a.m.	Middle School Faith Formation (Youth Rooms)
	9:15 a.m.	Pastor's Class: <i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i> (FH Anx)
	9:15 a.m.	Lenten Study: <i>Tell Me Something Good</i> (Parlor)
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Service (In Person & Online)
	11:30 a.m.	Earth Care Team (Library)



Use this QR code to visit our website resource page for Lent & Easter.