



**seeking:**  
*Is this the fast  
that I choose?*

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,  
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love  
by word and deed to all people.*

*Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6*

# The Worship of God

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

## Gathering Music

### Prelude

“Land of the Seeking”  
Christian McIvor

by Spencer LaJoye

### Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

### † Call to Worship

One: We gather together at the edge of a new season.

**All: We stand together on the cusp of something new.**

One: Will we wade into self-reflection?

**All: Will we invite honesty to dance?**

One: Will we listen for God’s invitation?

**All: Will we seek deeper faith?**

One: What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

**All: We gather together at the edge of a new season.**

One: Listen, God is speaking.

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

# † Centering Song

## “Seeking”

Words and music by  
Christian McIvor ©2023

What are we seek-ing?\_ Where do we hear God speak-ing?\_ May our

The first system of musical notation for the song "Seeking" is presented in a grand staff format, consisting of a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

5  
ques-tions lead to deep-er un-der-stand-ing\_ through a faith and love that nev-er stop ex-pand-ing.

The second system of musical notation continues the song. It begins with a measure rest labeled '5'. The melody and accompaniment continue with the lyrics. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## Call to Confession

Anna Beth Cross

### Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God,

How many times in a day could we choose love?

**All: How many times could we choose justice?**

One: How many times could we speak kindly to ourselves?

**All: How many times could we offer grace?**

One: How many times, God? And how often do we miss it?

**All: Forgive us for choosing the path you did not travel.**

One: Forgive us for hitching our horse to the world's measure of goodness, instead of yours.

**All: Return our hearts to you, and guide us continually, even in the parched places.**

One: With gratitude we pray,

**All: Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

O God of love, the fast you choose  
Is not some great display.  
It's everything we gladly do  
To serve you day by day.  
It's not a moment set apart  
When we will mourn our sin;  
For you require a change of heart —  
A change from what has been.

Lord, we confess we often sing  
That you are our delight,  
Then we go shouting words that sting;  
We bicker and we fight.  
Oppressing others for our gain,  
We put our interests first.  
We overlook our neighbors' pain  
While praying here in church.

You teach us what it means to be  
A church that worships you:  
In setting captive people free,  
We praise you as you choose.  
In sharing bread with hungry folk,  
Bringing the homeless in,  
And breaking every bitter yoke  
We worship you again.

God, bless us as we journey on  
To live in loving ways.  
Then darkness will turn into dawn  
And gloom will turn to praise.  
When justice is our offering,  
We also will be blest,  
And we will know the fast we bring  
Will be our very best.

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 58:1-12

Steve Rose

**Meditation**

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

**Reflection**

† **Hymn**

“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

BEACH SPRING;

Words by Alber F. Bayly,

Music by Benjamin Franklin White

**Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose every gift that You impart.**

**Still Your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love Your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving Your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go  
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that Your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know, and live.**

**Imposition of Ashes**

Anna Beth Cross and Chrissy Tatum Williamson

**Blessing**

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

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