Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us, O Christ, to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
And through these days of penitence, and through your passiontide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Christ with us abide.

- Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873
THE ACT OF WORSHIP
The First Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2020
Ten-thirty o’clock

PREPARATION AND PRAISE
The worship of God begins this morning as you enter the Sanctuary. You are encouraged to use these moments for meditation, reflection and prayer. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your fellowship with those around you.

The Meditation of Preparation
If worship does not change us, it has not been worship.
To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change.
Worship begins in holy expectancy;
It ends in holy obedience.
-Richard J. Foster

The Prelude
“Jesus, Priceless Treasure” Bach
“Ah, Holy Jesus” Schroeder

The Call to Worship
“Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” Gibbons
Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from heav’n the news and Prince of peace.
Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

*The Procession of the Lenten Banner* Yates Elfert
*The Processional Hymn No. 16: “Give to Our God Immortal Praise”* DUKE STREET
*The Litany of Praise* Richard Joiner

Leader: The Lord be with you;
People: And also with you.
Leader: We worship you, O God, for helping us deal with what is right and what is wrong.

People: Praise be to God, who showed us the way to live in Christ Jesus.
Leader: Like many of us, Jesus experienced baptism;
People: Praise be to God, who led Jesus to be anointed with water.
Leader: Like many of us, Jesus experienced temptation;
People: Praise be to God for God’s Son, who was tempted like we are.
Leader: And, also like us, Jesus would experience suffering and death;
All: Praise be to God who showed us how to live through suffering and death, and gave us the promise of eternal life in the resurrection of Jesus!

*The Gloria Patri No. 807: “Glory Be to the Father” MEINEKE
*The Prayer of Invocation* Richard Joiner

The Greeting
Major Treadway

The Lessons
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
The Call to the Table
Charles Poole

The Communion Litany
Pastor: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

People: Thanks be to God for the broken bread.
Pastor: After supper, he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.”

People: Thanks be to God for the cup.
Pastor: All: Thanks be to God for the table of communion.

The Bread
Worshipers will come forward by the center aisle. Receive the bread and, having received it, return to your seat by the outside aisle.

The Cup
Worshipers will be served the cup seated in the pews. Take the cup, a symbol of your willingness to receive the Grace of God. Once all have been served, drink the cup together.

COMMITMENT
Northminster is an open fellowship that wants to share its gift of life and ministry with others. During the Time of Response, this church extends to you an invitation to membership by your request for baptism, by letter from a sister church, or by statement of your Christian experience in another denomination. If you would like to unite with this covenant community, please express this desire by coming forward at this point of the service.

TIME OF RESPONSE
May the ashes and the frank reality of this Lenten season remind us that there is forgiveness, and there is hope for the forgiven life! Praise God for this hope, and let us celebrate the abundant grace that our loving God provides!

*The Recessional Hymn: “Shape Us, O Christ” (see insert)
*The Benediction Charles Poole
*The Postlude “Toccata in E Minor” Pachelbel

*The congregation will please stand.

The Lectionary passages for March 1 are found on the following pages in the Pew Bible:
- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 ~ page 2
- Psalm 32 ~ page 440
- Romans 5:12-19 ~ page 917
- Matthew 4:1-11 ~ page 785