



Gathering Song: "There is a Balm in Gilead"

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) from Psalm 31

LEADER: O God, I have put my trust in you.

PEOPLE: I will rejoice and take pleasure in your kindness, knowing that you have seen my affliction.

LEADER: I have heard accusations of the crowd, a whirlwind of terror all around when they gathered against me.

PEOPLE: They schemed to take my life—but I trusted in you.

LEADER: How wide is your concern! You shelter those who revere you, protecting all who take refuge in you from harm.

PEOPLE: You heard the voice of my plea, the note of desperation when I cried out for help.

LEADER: Love the Infinite, all who act with kindness; the Holy One keeps watch over the faithful, paying back in good measure those who act with pride.

ALL: Be strong and embolden your hearts, all who long for God.

adapted from *The Complete Psalms*, Pamela Greenberg

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

Extinguishing the Candles of Lent

LEADER: Lent is a time to reflect on our spiritual journeys, how we can follow Jesus more closely and how we have wandered from the Way. Today, we confess that the Way of Jesus can seem difficult. It is only through faith that we are able to follow and then imperfectly.

PEOPLE: The gate and the way are narrow but Jesus promised that his yoke would be easy.

LEADER: When we focus on staying true to Jesus' teachings, our lives have an ease and a joy to them.

PEOPLE: When we live in the Jesus Way, our lives produce the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, and all the rest.

LEADER: We can recognize those who are living in the Jesus Way by these attributes. Jesus taught us to be wary of those who use his name but do not bear those fruits.

PEOPLE: We find the Abundant Life that Jesus promised when we live as he taught, not when we merely echo his words.

LEADER: Trusting in what Jesus taught and did allows us to live out his teachings. We extinguish the fifth candle of Lent in confession that we have too often followed other ways than the Way of Jesus.

ALL: We have often done what we should not. We have often not done what we should have done. In God's great love, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Hymn: "In Times Like These"

Scripture/Sermon

Hymn: "I Saw the Light"