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 remember how often we have allowed our need for recognition to interfere with our relationship with God.

**PEOPLE: Our Scriptures teach us spiritual practices that open us up to the will of God and lead us into abundant life.**

LEADER: Too often, we let these practices become rote duty or use them as checklists to help us feel that we are justified in our own eyes and better in God’s sight than our neighbors.

**PEOPLE: Jesus told us not to show off when we give gifts to help others.**

LEADER: But our society teaches us to expect to have our names publicly listed and praised by those to whom we give.

**PEOPLE: Jesus taught us to give honor to God when we pray, to pray that God’s will might be done, and that everyone might have what they truly need.**

LEADER: Jesus reminded us, too, that we need to give the forgiveness that we ask for. Our prayer, worship, and other spiritual practices will change our lives when God’s will is at the center of them, rather than our own. We extinguish this third candle of Lent in repentance for putting our will ahead of God’s.

**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!**