

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA  
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:00 A.M.  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

**Prayer of Meditation**

The word 'repent' literally means to turn – to actually change course and set out on a different path. If you continue on the same path you have been following all along, then you are not truly repentant. And this was John the Baptist's message: "Bear fruits worthy of repentance." -Br. Jim Woodrum, SSJE

\*\*\*\*\*

**Prelude**

*Down a Southern Lane*

Florence Price

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**The Great Litany**

Priest: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Priest: Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the world,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Priest: Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the faithful,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Priest: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, One God,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Priest: From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred and malice;  
and from all evil intent,

**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your  
word and your laws,

**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: From sins of body and mind; from deceits of the world, flesh and the devil,

**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: From famine and disaster; from violence, murder, and dying unprepared,

**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the day of  
judgment,

**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; by the preaching of your reign,  
**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; by your precious death and burial,  
**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**People: Savior deliver us.**

Priest: Hear our prayers, O Christ our God.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Enlighten your bishops, priests and deacons with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Strengthen those who stand; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give your wisdom and strength to Donald Trump, the President of the United States, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of this state, and Marsha McLean, the Mayor of this city that in all things they may do your will, for your glory and the common good.  
**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give to the Congress of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, those who serve in our state legislature, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Bless the justices of the Supreme Court and all those who administer the law, that they may act with integrity and do justice for all your people.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and for the good of all.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Bless and keep all your people,

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and the oppressed.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Keep in safety those who travel and all who are in peril.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Guard and protect all children who are in danger.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Shower your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees, and all who are in trouble.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Hear us as we remember those who have died and grant us with them a share in your eternal glory.

**People: Hear us, O Christ.**

Priest: Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your word.

Priest: Blessed be the God of our salvation:

**People: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Priest: Holy God,  
Holy and Mighty,  
Holy Immortal One

**People: Have Mercy upon us.**

## The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### The First Reading Genesis 9:8-17

Reader: Ken Higginbotham

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 25:1-9

Reader: Dave Fencil

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

## **The Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22**

Reader: Marv Aardahl

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# Gradual Hymn #458

“My song is love unknown” (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

*Love Unknown*



1. My song is love un - known, my Sa - vior's love to me, love  
 2. He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be - stow, but  
 3. Some - times they strew his way, and his strong prais - es sing, re -  
 4. Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He  
 5. They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made a - way; a

to the love - less shown that they may love - ly be. O who am I that  
 men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know. But O my friend, my  
 sound-ing all the day ho - san - nas to — their King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
 made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet  
 mur - der - er they save, the Prince of Life — they slay. Yet stead-fast he to

for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?  
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend.  
 all their breath, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
 they at these them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.  
 suf - fering goes, that he his foes from thence might free.

6. In life no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say?  
 Heaven was his home;  
 but mine the tomb  
 wherein he lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing,  
 no story so divine;  
 never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend,  
 in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days  
 could gladly spend.

## The Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

**Priest:** The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**

*Members of the congregation are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.*

## Welcome and Announcements

We are pleased to celebrate the following birthday: Ryan Yahnker on February 16th

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## The Setting of the Table

### Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures, here below.  
Praise God, you hosts in heaven above; Praise God the Trinity of Love. Amen.**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**  
**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.  
**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**  
**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**




It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## Sanctus

Baity



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,\_\_\_ Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord,  
God of pow-er and might,\_\_\_ Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in\_\_\_ the high - est, ho - san-na in\_\_\_ the high - est.  
Blest is he\_\_\_ who comes in the name, comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san-na in\_\_\_ the high - est, ho - san - na in\_\_\_ the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of all your beloved children, that with Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

**People: have mercy upon us.**

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

**People: have mercy upon us.**

Priest: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

**People: grant us your peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Honor them in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"*

## **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

*Priest and People say together:*

**Grant, O Christ, that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through your tender mercy, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit ever one God. Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you have reconciled your people to yourself.  
As we follow his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Offertory Prayer**

**Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, as we go about our lives, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May God,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the one, holy and undivided Trinity be among  
you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

## Closing LEVAS #207

*We'll Understand It Better By and By*

Charles A. Tindley

1. We are of - ten tossed and driv'n on the rest - less sea of time,  
2. We are of - ten des - ti - tute of the things that life de - mands,  
3. Tri - als dark on ev - 'ry hand, and we can - not un - der - stand,  
4. Temp - ta - tions, hid - den snares of - ten take us un - a - wares,  
Som - ber skies and howl - ing tem - pest oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine;  
Want of food and want of shel - ter, thirst - y hills and bar - ren lands;  
All the ways that God would lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land;  
And our hearts are made to bleed for many a thought-less word or deed;  
In that land of per - fect day, when the mists have rolled a - way,  
We are trust - ing in the Lord, and ac - cord - ing to His word,  
But he guides us with his eye and we'll fol - low 'till we die.  
And we won - der why the test when we try to do our best.  
we will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.  
we will un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.  
For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.  
But we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.  
By and by when the morn - ing comes, When the saints of God are gath - ered home, We'll  
tell the sto - ry how we're o - ver - come; For we'll un - der - stand it bet - ter by and by.

## **Prelude - Down a Southern Lane - by Florence Price**

Florence Price (1888 - 1953) was the first black woman to achieve distinction as a composer. A graduate of the New England Conservatory (1906), where she studied with George Chadwick and Frederick Converse, she continued her work at the Chicago Musical College and the American Conservatory of Music in the same city. Ms. Price began composing as a child and had published small pieces even before entering the Conservatory. After graduation she taught at Shorter College in her home town of Little Rock, Arkansas and at Clark College in Atlanta. Marriage in 1912 brought an end to her college teaching; thereafter she established a studio, all while continuing with her composing.

She won her first prize in 1925, her second in 1927, both in Holstein competitions. After settling in Chicago in 1927, she found publishers for her teaching pieces, a specialty for her. She wrote music for radio commercials in addition to serious compositions. Her works are in a variety of forms; three symphonies, two violin concertos, concert overtures, a piano concerto, chamber music, organ and piano pieces, teaching pieces, and arrangements of spirituals and other Negro folksongs.

Her Symphony in E minor, which won a Wanamaker prize in 1932, was given a first performance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Frederick Stock, at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, and was repeated several times by the orchestra. She was a black nationalist in that she drew freely upon folk idioms in her compositions. On June 3, 1953, Price died from a stroke in Chicago, Illinois, at age 66.

From *The Music of Black Americans, A History* by Eileen Southern

## **Closing - We'll Understand It Better By and By - by Charles Albert Tindley**

Minister, gospel songwriter, and the first black to publish an original song collection, Charles Albert Tindley (1851 - 1933) was born in Berlin, Maryland. The son of slaves, he had few educational opportunities and taught himself to read and write. He also listened to spirituals and camp-meeting songs and developed a love of music. This enthusiasm led him to teach himself music composition.

After his marriage, he moved to Philadelphia in search of better economic conditions. After a few jobs, he became the sexton for the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. While working there he completed his education via correspondence school and passed the examination to become a minister. He started his ministerial career in 1885. After several pastoral assignments in New Jersey and Delaware, he returned to Philadelphia to pastor the Bainbridge Street Methodist Church, the new name of the church where he had previously served as sexton. He spent the rest of his career there, building the church's membership to ten thousand. Rev. Tindley achieved great fame as a preacher, orator, civil rights worker and champion of Philadelphia's poor. However, his greatest accomplishment was in gospel music.

In 1927 he formed the Tindley Gospel Singers, who spread their pastor's songs throughout the country. They were the first from the Baptist tradition to be accompanied by a piano. They were pioneers who sang some of the earliest gospel songs.

Two of Tindley's most popular songs are "We'll Understand it Better By and By" (aka By and By) and "Take Your Burden to the Lord, Leave It There" (aka Leave It There). His song "I'll Overcome Some Day" was reconstituted to "We Shall Overcome" and adopted as the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. He died on July 26, 1933 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Excerpted from the *Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music*

("We'll Understand It Better By and By" can be found in *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*)