

LENTEN WORSHIP

York Chapel

March 12, 1997

**Prelude --**

**Call to Worship**

Leader - The mystery of the cross is that it is both a symbol of suffering and a shelter for those who suffer

People - THE CROSS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD OF LIFE SUFFERED THE AGONY OF DEATH -- AND BY THAT DEATH GAVE LIFE BACK TO US.

Leader - Thanks be to God for the promise of life.

People - THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THE CROSS AND THE GIFT OF LIFE.

**Hymn** #295, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

**Prayer of Confession**

Call to Confession

Leader - "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8-9)

Let us confess our sin together

People - MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL GOD:

WE CONFESS TO YOU AND TO ONE ANOTHER,  
AND TO THE WHOLE COMMUNION OF SAINTS IN HEAVEN AND ON  
EARTH, THAT WE HAVE SINNED IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED;  
BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE, AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE.

Leader - We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People - HAVE MERCY ON US, LORD.

Leader - We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

People - WE CONFESS TO YOU, LORD, OUR SELF-INDULGENT APPETITES AND  
WAYS, OUR EXPLOITATION OF OTHER PEOPLE,  
OUR ANGER AT OUR OWN FRUSTRATION,  
AND OUR ENVY OF THOSE MORE FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES.

Leader - We confess to you, Lord, our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

People - WE CONFESS TO YOU, LORD, OUR NEGLIGENCE IN PRAYER AND  
WORSHIP, AND OUR FAILURE TO NOURISH THE FAITH THAT IS IN US.

Leader - Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty

People - ACCEPT OUR REPENTANCE, LORD, FOR ALL FALSE JUDGMENTS,  
FOR UNCHARITABLE THOUGHTS TOWARD OUR NEIGHBORS,  
AND FOR OUR PREJUDICE AND CONTEMPT TOWARD THOSE WHO DIFFER  
FROM US.

Leader - Accept our repentance, Lord, for our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

All - RESTORE US, GOOD LORD, AND IN YOUR MERCY HEAR US.  
ACCOMPLISH IN US THE WORK OF YOUR SALVATION,  
THAT WE MAY SHOW FORTH YOUR GLORY IN THE WORLD. AMEN

[Adapted from The Book of Common Prayer]

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Response** - "Gloria Patri," #70

**The Old Testament Lesson** -

Ezekiel 37:1-14

### **Meditation**

**Hymn** - "What Wondrous Love Is This?"

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

**The Gospel Lesson** -

John 11 17-45

### **Meditation**

**Anthem** "God So Loved the World"

John Stainer

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition**

Leader - Let us give thanks to God.

Gracious God, we offer you thanks and praise for all the surprising graces which  
come to us, for those that sustain our lives and those that change them:

People - FOR OUR HOMES--PLACES OF SECURITY AND LOVE, AS WELL AS  
CHALLENGES TO OUR GROWTH AND UNDERSTANDING;

Leader - For friendships and for comrades who are willingly open in their affection and their correction;

People - FOR TASKS TO PERFORM, FOR ROUTINE ACTIONS WHICH GIVE ORDER TO OUR DAYS, AND FOR TASKS AT WHICH WE HAVE FAILED AND WHICH RESTORE A NEEDED HUMILITY TO US,

Leader - For Jesus Christ, and for all Christ has done and will do for us in our life as a community of Christ's people;

People - IN CHRIST'S NAME WE PRAY AND GIVE THANKS

Leader - Let us pray for our world.

O God, the refuge of the poor, and the hope for the humble, the salvation of the needy, hear us as we pray for your children throughout our world.

People - WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE WORN BY ILLNESS, FOR ALL WHO ARE WRONGED OR OPPRESSED, AND FOR THE WEARY AND HEAVY-LADEN, THAT THEY MAY BE STRENGTHENED BY YOUR GRACE AND HEALED BY YOUR CONSOLATIONS. LET THE LIGHT WHICH IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD VISIT THOSE WHO WALK IN A DARKNESS OF THE SOUL OR WHO LANGUISH IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE THEM INTO THE WAY OF PEACE.

Leader - O God, Eternal Spirit, you have called us to fulfill missions whose meaning we yet dimly see. Grant to your servants a secure knowledge of our identity as persons of rich heritage, as persons who possess the gifts of ministry, as children of the promise whom you have called and claimed as your own.

People - MAKE US IMPATIENT WITH ANY LOYALTY THAT DOES NOT PROPEL US INTO THE STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. DISTRIBUTE AMONG US GIFTS OF FAITH AND PRAYER, OF PROPHECY AND DISCERNMENT, OF LOVE AND HOPE THAT WE MAY NEVER CEASE DOING YOUR WILL,

Leader - O God of grace, take our brokenness and our ever-aching emptiness, and help us to receive with gratitude the gift of your love and grace.

People - LEAD US TO DO THOSE GOOD THINGS THAT ARE NOT COMPROMISED BY OUR FLAWS NOR MISDIRECTED BY OUR BLINDNESS.

Leader - As much as can be, mend us, fill us, make us strong with your presence, make us faithful and trusting through the gift of yourself, make us hopeful though the gifts and promise of your spirit, make us loving as the grateful recipients of your love.

All - FOR ALL THESE THINGS, WE WILL GIVE YOU THE GLORY, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. AMEN

[Adapted from The Book of Worship of the U.C.C.]

**Hymn** - "What Wondrous Love Is This"

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,

To God and to the Lamb I will sing,

To God and to the Lamb Who is the great "I Am,"

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on,  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And thru' eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
And thru' eternity I'll sing on.

## **Benediction**

**Choral Response** "Amen"

John Rutter

### Worship Leaders

Chris Cadenhead  
Peggy Gold  
Furman Hewitt

Divinity School Choir  
Rodney Wynkoop, Director, Divinity School Choir  
David Arcus, Organist