Come, O Life-giving Creator, and rattle the door latch of my slumbering heart. Show me during these Lenten days how to take the daily things of life and, by submerging them in the sacred, to infuse them with a great love for you, O God, and for others. O, Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ, help me not to waste these precious Lenten days of my soul’s spiritual springtime.

(Edward Hays)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand.)

Leader: Creator of the world, eternal God,
All: We gather in your name, grateful for togetherness.
Leader: Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,
All: We are richer because of the range of life experiences present in this community.
Leader: Spirit of unity, God-between-us.
All: We challenge one another to expand our hearts.
Leader: We seek to find our voices to proclaim your truth,
All: For when we seek the truth together, it gives us new life, and you, Holy One, are present.

HYMN (Please stand.)

LAMENTATION AND CONFESSION

All: Merciful Creator, our restless living leaves us distracted. Our minds are busy, and our fears hold us back. Wake us up and make us brave and full of joy to answer your call.

Silence

ABSOLUTION

All: We know that each of us is indebted to one another, an infinite debt of Christian love. God so loved the world that God gave us our brother Jesus, a model of infinite love for us. May his love spur us to forgive and act.

HYMN (Please stand.)

WELCOME OF VISITORS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

THE TEACHING (followed by brief silence)

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Closing: Lord’s Prayer

THE GATHERING OF GIFTS

All: For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Celebrant: The table of bread and wine is now ready.
People: It is the table of company with Jesus and all who love him.

Celebrant: It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself.

People: It is the table of communion with the earth in which Christ became incarnate.

Celebrant: So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been here for some time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have stumbled or failed. Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

People: Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us on the road of our world’s suffering and who is known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Celebrant: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread and having asked God’s blessing on it, he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

The bread is broken.

In the same way, Jesus took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, “This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it with one another.”

The wine is poured.

Come, it is Christ who invites you to this table to serve and be served.

CLOSING COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, Jesus commanded us to love one another as he loved us. Fill our hearts with your love, that we may be known as Jesus’s disciples for the love we have for one another, and for all our brothers and sisters. Amen.

HYMN (Please stand.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING BLESSING (Please stand and say together.)

We lift up our hearts to you, O God in this season of Lent. Awaken us to a deeper love for you. May the wind of the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, into the furnace of prayer, also drive us with a passion during this Lenten season to enkindle the fire of our devotion. Amen and Alleluia.
Community Worship

Season of Lent

The Festival Center
1640 Columbia Road, NW • Washington, DC
Sunday 10:00 a.m.