

**LENTEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE**

**MUSIC FOR GATHERING**

**SILENT MEDITATION** on Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Leader: God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

All: **God created in the wilderness.**

Leader: The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

All: **The Israelites found God in the wilderness.**

Leader: Jesus said "no" to the tempter time and time again.

All: **Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.**

Leader: We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

All: **For God is with us - before, through, and after the wilderness.**

**HYMN NO. 414** Be Still and Know that I Am God

*Psalm 46*

*(Leader sings once, then all sing 3 times as directed.)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Creation, you remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you tonight - confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from our sins. Give us the strength to say "no" to that which separates us from you, and "yes" to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light. Gratefully we pray, amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 40:3-5, Mark 1:12-15

**SILENT MEDITATION ON THE SCRIPTURES**

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**



*Judean Wilderness, 2018*

**POEM FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT**

*The Wilderness is Somewhere We've Been Before*

**HYMN NO. 471** O Lord, Hear My Prayer

*(Leader sings once, then all sing 3 times as directed.)*

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

Leader: Let my prayer rise before you as incense, O God,

**All: The lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice**

*(Prayer continues...)*

SILENCE:

*(Leader concludes the silence...)*

... In gratitude, we pray as he taught us to pray, saying, Our Father, who art in Heaven...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**HYMN NO. 543** O, Christ, Surround Me

*(Stanzas 1 and 2 as directed)*

**THE BENEDICTION**

**PASS THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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Hymns for the Lenten Evening Prayer Services are taken from our new PC(USA) Glory to God Hymnal. We hope you will ponder the footnotes provided for each hymn and, thereby, deepen your experience and privilege of singing to the Glory of God.

Poems and some prayers are from A Sanctified Art LLC [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

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