

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell
Music Director and Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

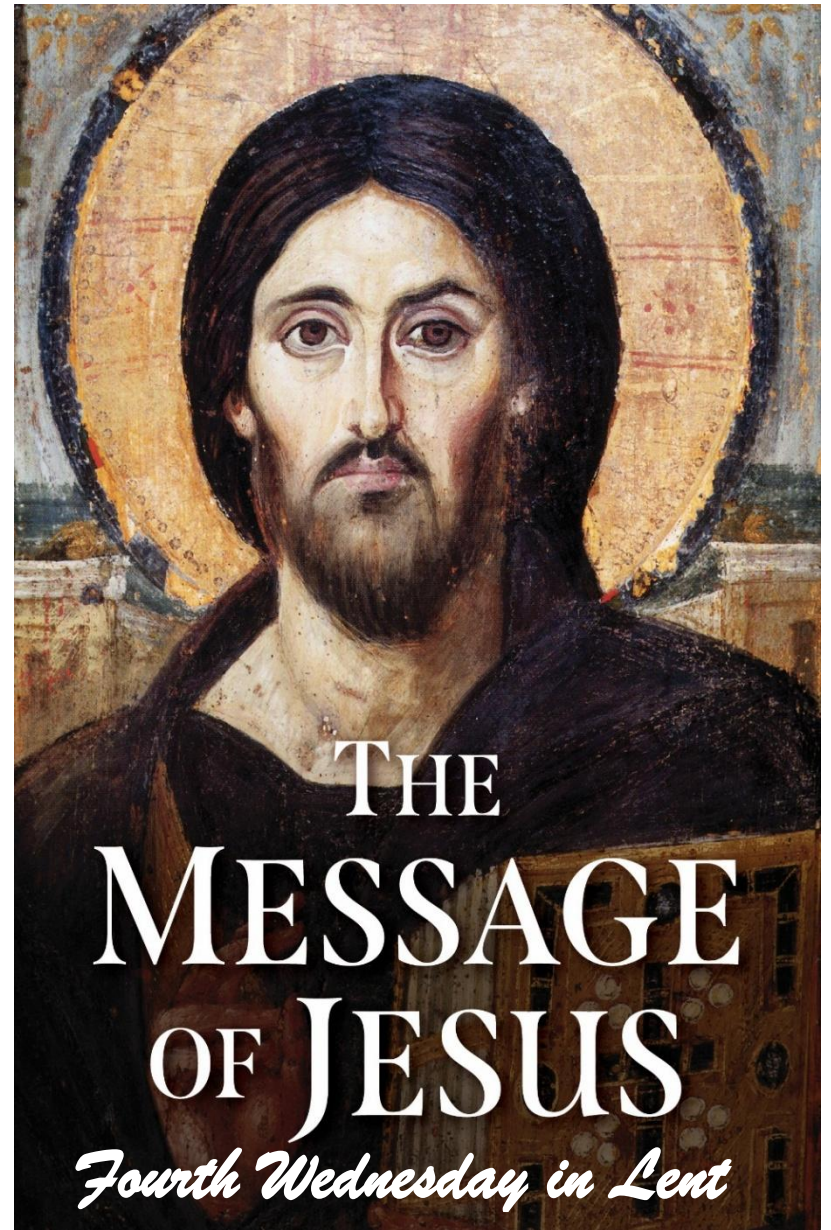
*Message Theme is from the Book: "The Message of Jesus"
A Lenten Study, by Adam Hamilton*

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Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables

GREETING

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: If we indeed cry out for insight and raise our voice for understanding—

People: If we seek wisdom like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures—

Pastor: Then will we understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

People: For the Lord gives wisdom, and from the Lord’s mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Pastor: The Lord stores up sound wisdom for the upright, and is a shield to those who walk blamelessly.

People: The Lord guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of the faithful. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 647...“We Have Come to Join in Worship”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we need to confess how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer. Tempted by everything, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing.

Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance to gather your goodness and godliness. Chasing after all which has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.

Forgive us, God of Reversals. You have sent the One who speaks the words we need to listen to in order to have life.

Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we make that good confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins.

People: God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

ENGAGING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE.....Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 10:29-37, Luke 15:11-32

MESSAGE.....“Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH..... From a Brief Statement of Faith
We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

GOING WITH THE WORD

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN NO. 373.....“Change My Heart, O God”

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