

The Eliot Church of Newton

474 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02458 617-244-3639 www.eliotchurch.org

Order of Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent March 14, 2010

Thought for Reflection

So long as we imagine that it is we who have to look for God, then we must often lose heart. But it is the other way about: God is looking for us. And so we can afford to recognize that very often we are not looking for God; far from it, we are in full flight from God, in high rebellion against him. And God knows that and has taken it into account. God has followed us into our own darkness; there where we thought finally to escape God, we run straight into his arms.

Simon Tugwell

The power of forgiveness is but partial manifestation of a much larger power, namely, the power to isolate, repel and negate evil and sin, a power given to Jesus in his mission by the Father and given in turn by Jesus through the spirit to those whom he commissions.

Raymond Brown



Prelude Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 156 D. Buxtehude

Introit Blessed be the Lord God D. Wood

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
Who only doeth wondrous things:
And blessed be his glorious Name for ever more,
The mountains shall bring peace to the people,
And the little hills, by righteousness.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Greeting and Invocation

* Hymn **Christians, We Have Met to Worship** **Red Chalice 277**

Confession of Sin *Each Sunday we will extinguish one candle in our Lenten wreath, as we travel the liturgical path toward Holy Week and Easter, the commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.*

R1: On this fourth Sunday of Lent we think of the times when we turned away from God's love — acting in uncaring and unjust ways. We spend our money

in foolish ways, while many people live in poverty. We mistreat others, forgetting that they are part of God's wonderful creation.

R2: In the story of the prodigal son, a young man leaves home and wastes money his father has given him. Yet his father still loves him and welcomes him home. In the same way, God loves us and welcomes us, too.

R1: There are many stories of candles that are placed in windows to welcome home weary travelers. When the travelers return, the candle is put out until it is needed again. As we put out this candle, let it likewise remind us of the welcome that God gives every one of us when we ask for forgiveness.

(The pink candle of the Lenten wreath is extinguished, allowing the smoke to rise.)
Let us pray:

All: *Welcoming God, we confess that we sometimes sacrifice the needs of others. We buy more and more while so many others are hungry. Your forgiveness strengthens us to treat others fairly. Help us to live as justice-seeking people. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

R2: Jesus reminds us that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Sometimes we are that lost one who is found, that one for whom there is joy in the presence of the angels of God! Thanks be to God.

*** Acclamation**

*God has eternal life implanted in the soul
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be the name,
Who was and is, and ever shall be still the same.*

The Life and Mission of the Church

The Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

Sung Blessing of the Children

Black *New Century* 82, verse 1

Anthem

How Lovely are the Messengers *from St Paul*

Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

The Word

Hebrew Scriptures II Corinthians 5: 16-21
Gospel Luke 15:11-32

*** Hymn**

What Wondrous Love Is This

Red Chalice 200

Sermon

A FRESH START

Pastor Tony Kill

Prayer For The Church And For The World

Call To Prayer

Bless the Lord

Taizé

Silent Prayer

Prayer Requests

After each request, the worship leader says "For this, let us pray"

and all are invited to respond, "*Gracious God, receive our prayers.*"
Pastoral Prayer

A Time For Thanksgiving

Offering

Offertory Music

Adagio from Voluntary VI

J. Stanley

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host!
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

Dedication of Offering

* Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Red Chalice 86

* **Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in C Minor, BWV 546

J.S. Bach