

Lent II



SECOND SUNDAY in LENT

**March 16, 2025
10 am**

**Church of the Holy Nativity
4238 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
www.holynativitybaltimore.org**

A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE CHURCH

**Celebrant: The Reverend Karen Mercer
Musician: Dr. Lior Leigh**

OPENING HYMN

1 The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blest.

2 He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagle-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace
for evermore.

3 There dwells the Lord, our King,
the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o'er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace;

H401 – *The God of Abraham Praise*
on Zion's sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light,
for ever reigns.

4 The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy," cry,
"Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same,
and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM,
we worship thee."

5 The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!"
they ever cry;
hail, Abraham's Lord divine!
With heaven our songs we raise;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

The God of Abraham praise, #401 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt. Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, alt.

THE PENITENTIAL RITE

OPENING SENTENCES

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

DECALOGUE

Hear the commandments of God to his people:
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.
You shall have no other gods but me.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.
Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. Celebrant and People:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

S91

Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *

**the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?**

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
**it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.**

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
**he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.**

8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.

15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
**for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.**

17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!

18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

THE EPISTLE

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

Bless the Lord,
O my soul:
and all that is within me,
Bless His holy name.

LEVAS 65 – *Bless the Lord*

He has done great things,
He had done great things,
He had done great things,
Bless His holy name!

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Listen for The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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and all that is within me,
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He had done great things,
He had done great things,
Bless His holy name!

SERMON

Deacon Neva Brown, Guest Preacher

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: In this holy season let us turn to God in prayer, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Carrie, our Bishop, for Karen, our Vicar, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For Donald, our President, Wes, our Governor, and Brandon, our Mayor, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the catechumens and for all the holy people of God [*silence*], that we may heed the voice of the Lord and reform our ways and our deeds, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For the peoples and nations of the world [*silence*], that we may preserve and care for the blessings of this world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For outcasts and those without home or land [*silence*], that a place of refuge, shelter, and belonging will be theirs, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For this community [*silence*], that God may grant us the grace to lift our minds above the things of earth and to stand firm in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: For our own needs and those of others [*silence*], that we may find shelter and protection under God's wings. We especially pray for those on our parish prayer list:

Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Faye, Fr. Bill, James, Silma, and Aldwyn. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Intercessor: You may add your own intercessions at this time.

A period of silence follows after which the Celebrant concludes with the following prayers

Celebrant: Come to our aid, Lord God, and grant, by your grace, that we may walk in the footsteps of the crucified Lord and so come with him to the glory you have promised. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

God of Eternity, we gather today to give thanks for the past. We think back to those who first had a vision of a church in this place, to those who gave of their labor, their treasure, their time to make it happen.

God of Eternity, we also give thanks for our present and our future. As we gather here today we look for hope. The present is unsettling, the future is uncertain. We hope that in the goodness of your love that your guidance will be ever-present.

Fill us with a vision for what we could be. Give us hope for our congregation and our community that lead us into your abundance and not our scarcity.

God of Eternity, in a time of uncertainty we so often fall into fear and worry, show us the opportunities in our chaotic world, remind us of our priorities in relationship to you, push us to see how our choices matter, and then fill us with hope in a new heaven and a new earth.

God of our future, may we walk boldly into what may come, as a people of faith and hope. May we be found faithful in the world in which we live.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

Senior Warden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Karen Mercer

THE HOLY COMMUNION

What follows is the Holy Communion, the sacred meal of the Christian faith. The Episcopal Church, as do all other denominations rooted in the historic Christian faith, affirms that the sacrament of Baptism is the ancient and normative entry point for receiving the sacrament of Eucharist, yet no one who comes forward to receive the bread and wine at communion is ever turned away from God's table. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, the Episcopal Church welcomes you, and we invite you to explore with us what baptism may mean for you. Want to know more? Please see Rev. Mercer following the service.

OFFERTORY HYMN

LEVAS 193 – *I Will Trust in the Lord*

1 I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord 'til I die;
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord 'til I die.

2 Sister will you trust in the Lord ('til you die).

3 Brother will you trust in the Lord ('til you die).

4 I'm gonna treat my neighbor right ('til I die).

5 I'm gonna hold my savior's hand ('til I die).

I Will Trust in the Lord, #193 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*. Arr. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

DOXOLOGY

H380

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 370

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

S125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mother: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to [sing],

LORD'S PRAYER

LEVAS 264

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S158

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN

LEVAS 9 – *On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

*I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.*

1 On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

Refrain

2 O'er all those wide extended plains
shines one eternal day;
there God the Son forever reigns,
and scatters night away.

Refrain

3 No chilling winds or poisonous breath
can reach that healthful shore;
sickness and sorrow, pain and death,
are felt and feared no more.

Refrain

4 When I shall reach that happy place,
I'll be forever blest,
for I shall see my Father's face,
and in his bosom rest.

Refrain

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Keep this, your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely
on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine
protection; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

LEVAS 194 – *Lead Me, Guide Me*

*Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.*

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Help me through the darkness thy face to see,
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Refrain

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when satan and sin oppress;
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Refrain

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see;
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Refrain

Lead Me, Guide Me, #194 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* — Words: Doris M. Akers (b. 1922). Music: Doris M. Akers; arr. Richard Smallwood. Copyright © Doris Akers. Copyright renewed, all rights controlled by Unichappell Music, Inc. (Rightsong Music Publisher). International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

THE DISMISSAL

The Rev. Karen Mercer

As we go forth into the world, refreshed and renewed, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission as a congregation:

We are committed to sharing God's love with all through our worship and ministries.

Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Our Prayer List

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of The Church of the Holy Nativity: Eileen, Gloria, Mildred, Karen, Tammy, Emanuel, Karen R., Dorris, Gouri, Katrina, Elaine, Justina, Eva, Rebecca, Lisa, Faye, Fr. Bill, Sharon, Vestina, Ruth, James, Diamond, Jamie, King, Katrina, Angel, Hope, Arlene, Norman, Dorian, Daniel, Nicole, Michael, Tyrus, Shirley, Silma, Aldwyn, William, Deja, and Joy.

We continue to ask for prayers for all those impacted by the coronavirus, those impacted by war and gun violence, those in our midst who are struggling with anxiety depression and addiction, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and the unhoused.

Announcements

Soup, Sandwich & Prayer
Wednesdays – Noon -1:15pm, Hope House

March 16, 2025	Lent II Guest Preacher: Deacon Neva Brown
March 23, 2025	Lent III Annual Meeting
March 30, 2025	Lent IV
April 6, 2025	Lent V
April 13, 2025	Palm Sunday Procession @ 9:30 - Service 10 am
April 17, 2025	Maundy Thursday - Dinner @ 4:30 followed by service
April 18	Good Friday 12 Noon
April 20	Easter Service 10 am

Virtual Stations of the Cross - Fridays, beginning March 7-April 11@ 6:30 pm

The Church of the Holy Nativity is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Virtual Stations of the Cross

Time: Mar 7, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Fri, until Apr 11, 2025, 6 occurrence(s)

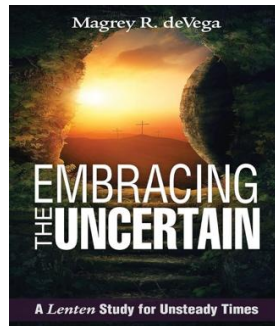
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87437463673?pwd=BaK5p5gr4Yw8e8aQowT73aIrk62afT.1>

Meeting ID: 874 3746 3673

Passcode: 008469

Join Us for a Lenten Study: Embracing the Uncertain



Lent invites us to reflect, trust, and grow in faith—even in the face of life’s uncertainties. This year, join us for a six-week study of *Embracing the Uncertain* by Magrey R. deVega. Through scripture, discussion, and prayer, we’ll explore how Jesus responded to uncertainty and how we can, too.

Session Topics:

- 📖 **March 12** – The Desperate Father and the Uncertainty of Faith (*Mark 9:14-29*)
- 📖 **March 19** – Peter and the Uncertainty of Forgiveness (*Matthew 18:21-22*)
- 📖 **March 26** – The Crowd and the Uncertainty of Worry (*Luke 12:1-34*)
- 📖 **April 2** – Lazarus and the Uncertainty of Mortality (*John 11:1-44*)
- 📖 **April 9** – Zacchaeus and the Uncertainty of Surrender (*Luke 19:1-10*)
- 📖 **April 16** – Jesus and the Uncertainty of Obedience & The Empty Tomb and the Proof of Resurrection (*Matthew 26:36-46, Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18*)

 **Book:** *Embracing the Uncertain* by Magrey R. deVega (available for purchase \$7.43)

 **RSVP or Questions?** Contact Mother Karen (kmerc5611@gmail.com)

Prepare your heart for Easter by embracing the unknown with faith. **We hope you'll join us!**

 **Wednesdays, March 12 – April 16**

 **Time: 7 pm**

 **Location: Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81051443043?pwd=hbVeULLMrPzNWofpVfi7zzTgPQWPbM.1>

Meeting ID: 810 5144 3043

Passcode: 998685

Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 810 5144 3043 Passcode: 998685

Notes

Today is: _____ Sermon Title: _____

Key Verses:

Worship Songs:

Prayers:
