

## From power over to power with

**Focus** As we seek God's way, we move from an understanding of power that grasps for control over others to an understanding that true power comes from working with and for others in love.

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

### Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,  
a way so different from the ways of this world.

**People: We remind ourselves to loosen our grasp,  
to trust instead of control.**

Leader: We praise a God we cannot see  
and celebrate a salvation we do not understand.

**People: In worship we give of ourselves  
and we receive the disarming power of God.**

Leader: We cry:

**All: *Blessed is the One who comes in the power of God's name.***

### Responsive reading

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

**People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.**

Leader: We seek God's ways. (*Snip the cords.*)

**All: *Lord, move us from seeking the power to control others to instead using power with them for everyone's healing and wholeness.***

### Songs

#### Lenten prayer of confession (from Isaiah 55)

Leader: Holy One,  
we seek you while you may be found.

**People: We call upon you while you are near.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,  
for our thoughts are not your thoughts  
and our ways are not your ways.

**People: Forgive us for seeking power over others and let us instead seek power with  
and for the most vulnerable.**

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,  
let us see your way more clearly

**All: *and follow your way more faithfully.***

### Prayer

We give thanks to you, O God, that our wisdom is not your wisdom, our ways are not your ways. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. The horse that led the victorious warrior got lost, while the donkey still knows the way. As children on our bikes, we learned that although our instincts tell us to hold on tight and try to turn when caught in a rut, a loose grip will

guide us through. Gracious God, your way shows that all those who try to hold on tightly will fall, while all those who hold with the light hands of trust will stand together. Although we may feel rejected as Jesus was rejected, we trust that we stand together in your powerful love. Amen.

## Song

## Children's time

**Scripture** Isaiah 50:4-9a, Luke 19:28-40

**Sermon** With Humility, With People, With Love

## **Reflection questions**

Where are you working with and for others *in love*:

In relationships in your family and community?

In church board and congregational meetings?

## Songs

## Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times ***“Lord, in your mercy”*** respond with ***“hear our prayer.”***

## Offering Song

**Announcements – April 14** Maundy Thursday/Communion/Tenebrae, 7:00 pm, **April 17** Easter Sunday Worship 9:30 am.

**Sending** From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of empowerment. May you resist the temptation to hold power over others and learn to exercise power with others in love. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness goes with you on the way. Amen.

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

Isaiah 50:4-9

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;

I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.

I offered my back to those who beat me,

my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;

I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

He who vindicates me is near.

Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser? Let him confront me!

It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.