

March 23, 2025
3rd Sunday in Lent



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Mary Markve-Patch

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

We think if we reach the mythical goal of perfection, we will be beyond vulnerability. But the space between us matters more to our understanding of the goodness God created. Goodness happens when the betweenness is restored. Without supporting our neighbor's flourishing, we are missing out on the vehement goodness of creation. We are limiting the goodness between us.

- Amy Kenny

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Featherston/Gordon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
**my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

from Psalm 63

*OPENING HYMN

#418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We come before the Holy One recognizing our faults and trusting in God's loving mercy. Together let us lean on the grace of God and confess our sins.

Holy and gracious God you created us in your glorious image and likeness, but we do not live as divine image bearers. Forgive us, O God, for the times when we do not live as if you are with us, for the times when we do not recognize your blessings in our lives, and for the times when we do not bless others as you have blessed us. Forgive us for the things we have done

and the things we have left undone that have broken relationships, harmed others, and driven people from you.

Restore us, we pray, through Jesus, your Son, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***KYRIE**

#551 Lord, Have Mercy

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

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE**

#570 Dying You Destroyed Our Death

Dying you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open us, O God.

Open us to your Word, that we might know you more deeply. Open us to your Spirit, that we might follow you more faithfully. Open us to one another, that in friend and enemy, neighbor and stranger, we might see your image and likeness.

Open us, O God, to your love made known in Jesus our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSV)

1Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

6Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

7let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (NRSV)

1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud,
and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and
all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the
spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with
most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do
not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink,
and they rose up to play." 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and
twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did,
and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed
by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written
down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing,
watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God
is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also
provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV)

1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." 6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

As the Deer

Nystrom setting by Wilson

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Brief Statement of Faith

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,**

**suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We come before you O God in gratitude for your loving kindness and mercy. Continue to build up in us a great love for you and the whole of your creation and give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus your Son.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church...

Let us be a sign of your promised realm and make us ready to meet our Savior Christ when he comes again in glory. Strengthen us in our faith and give us courage and compassion to extend the mercy we have been shown to others.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world...

Make a way in the wilderness of this world. Bring justice and equality to every land and let all creatures know your saving love. Bring peace to every corner of the world, especially Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Palestine, Yemen, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Transform us and all your Church into peacemakers by the power of your Spirit. Help us to seek the common good of all your creation and remember that you have made us to share life with you and all you have made.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community...

We pray for Buffalo and Wright County, for all of our neighbors who live, work, study, and play here. Strengthen us in times of difficulty and give us compassion for all our neighbors.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones...

Let your tender mercy shine on them. Enliven those who wait in the gloom of death's shadow and guide their feet onto the path of peace. Pour out your healing and mercy to those in need, especially...

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare your way in us, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad when your reign of glory comes; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#100 Canticle of the Turning

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from the Saint Helena Psalter, produced by the Order of Saint Helena. All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

My Jesus, I Love Thee Text: William R. Fetherston Music: Adoniram J. Gordon

#418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling | TEXT: Will L. Thompson, 1880 | MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880 | Public domain

#649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound | TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie | MUSIC: Columbian Harmony, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt. | Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Phonetic Transcr. Navaho, Albert Tsosie

As the Deer Words and Music by Martin Nystrom Choral setting by John F. Wilson ©1984 this Arr. ©1994 by MARANATHA! MUSIC (admin by THE COPYRIGHT COMPANY) Sole selling agent this arr. Hope Publishing Company

#100 Canticle of the Turning TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990 | MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990 | Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sponsor a Backpack: We are hoping to donate 150 backpacks with supplies to the Buffalo Food Shelf. These will be given to students in the fall. Each backpack is \$10.00. The Backpack Drive will be from **March 9th through April 20th.**

Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesdays March 12th through April 9th. We will be sharing our Soup Suppers with our friends at Spirit of Joy. These suppers will be from 6-7:30pm. The sign up sheet is out in the Narthex. To practice hospitality towards those with dietary restrictions, please fill out the ingredient list and bring with your soup. Please sign up to help set up, clean up, or bring a soup to share. We will be joined by SOJ and they are also signing up to help. This will be a great opportunity to continue getting to know our siblings in Christ. Following the soup suppers, join us in a discussion and reflection. This year's Lenten theme is: A House Divided and a World on Fire. We will be learning lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.



How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer

request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC Prayer List:

- Larry Pattee
- Nancy Grittman
- Dennis Sleetten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship

10:30a CCC: Presbyterian Resources on the Internet

Monday

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies

9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe

Wednesday

6:00p Lenten Soup Supper

7:30p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith

10:00a Women of Faith

5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30a Worship

10:30a CCC: Parenting with Grace

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Brian Entz, Pastor

Mike Agre, Choir Director

Ralph Johansen, Organist

Mike Quady, Clerk of Session

Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh' íf da ít' éé.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.