

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC *Präludium* Felix Mendelssohn Barthody

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CENTERING SILENCE The Rev. Dr. James Butler

LENTEN BELL

CALL TO CONFESSION Abraham Roos

The Lenten "sacrifice" that pleases God is a contrite heart and a humble spirit.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

In silence, let us call to mind the ways we have failed to love God and our neighbors.

(a moment of silence is kept for personal reflection)

UNISON CONFESSION

Lord, you know us as we are, and what we have done and left undone. You know the thoughts of our hearts and the burdens of regret and remorse we sometimes carry.

And though we are not always faithful to your ways, you love us without condition and offer us the gift of living water and another new beginning. As we listen for your living word help us to drink from the well of forgiveness. And empower us to do your will in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SUNG CONFESSION (Hymn 423, v. 1, 3)

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation. Restore in me the joy of your salvation.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation and uphold with me your Holy Spirit.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* **HYMN 333** "How Our Hearts with Joy Abound" GOTT SEI DANK DURCH

* ACCLAMATION AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beloved in Christ: God is with us!

We are not alone!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON Exodus 17:1-7 (Pew Bible, O.T. p.64)

ANTHEM *When the Poor Ones* David M. Cherwien

Jim Brewer and Lucie Freeman, guitar

When the poor ones who have nothing still are giving. When the thirsty pass the cup, water to share. When the wounded offer others strength and healing. We see God here by our side walking our way. When compassion gives the suffering consolation. When expecting brings to birth hope that was lost. When we choose love, not the hatred, all around us. We see God here by our side walking our way. When the spirits like a chalice brim with gladness. When our voices full and clear sing out the truth. When our longings, free from envy, seek the humble. We see God here by our side walking our way. When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings. When the nations work to change war into peace. When the stranger is accepted as our neighbor. We see God here by our side walking our way.

* **GOSPEL LESSON** John 4:5-42 (Pew Bible, N.T. p.94)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SUNG BLESSING (Hymn 487, v. 5)

Then, tender God, each child embrace. Lord, give them blessings, grant them grace.

Surprise them, Lord, with wonders still. And gently guide them to your will.

SERMON "Beautiful Stranger" Dr. Butler

"Come and see a man who knows everything I have ever done..."

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

* **HYMN 415** "Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" RESTORATION

Abraham Roos, percussion

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

OFFERTORY

Agnus Dei

François Couperin

* **DOXOLOGY** (Hymn 606)

*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.*

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* **HYMN 182**

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

* **CHARGE**

* **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter

Chancel Choir

Lucie Freeman, guitar

Deep peace of the running wave to you. Deep peace of the flowing air to you. Deep peace of the quiet earth to you. Deep peace of the shining stars to you. Deep peace of the gentle night to you. Moon and stars pour their healing light on you. Deep peace of Christ, the Christ, the light of the world to you. Deep peace of Christ to you.

Our Mission

To extend the gracious welcome of God in Jesus Christ through worship, service and spiritual growth in a supportive community of faith.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Butler, Pastor

The Revs. Dr. Steve and Dr. Cinda Gorman, Parish Associates

Dr. Kaori Hongo, Minister of Music

Aliyah Kennedy, Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

Sara Gresh, Secretary and Financial Secretary

Kimberly Hook, Childcare Provider and Evening Receptionist

Scott Schreiber, Maintenance Custodian

Carolyn Fordosi, Housekeeper

Margaret Limkemann, Minister of Music Emerita



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

10 a.m.
