



March 22, 2026

The Fifth Sunday In Lent

*(†) The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

THE CHURCH GATHERS

Silent Prayer and Time for Centering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP ***

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers

and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers

and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice

and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just,

merciful, and faithful God!

2169

God, How Can We Forgive

1. God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?
 2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,
 3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?
 how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?
 when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,
 The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (Matt. 6:12-15; 18:21-35; John 8:2-11)
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody, *Sacred Harmony*; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, alt.
 Words © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

LEONI
 66.84 D

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† PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones,

but you show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws

than to each other or to you.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Church family,

Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones

and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,

and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson: *John 8:2-11* (Pg. 870) **

ANTHEM Agnus Dei Paul Basler

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.
—Latin

TRANSLATION:

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.*

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Guest Musician Alex Wilderman - Saxophone

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

† HYMN OF PREPARATION

Let Us Remember

ADELAIDE 5.4.5.4 D (“Have Thine Own Way”)

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)



What is im - por - tant? What mat - ters more?
We've been shown mer - cy all of our lives
Fol - low - ing Je - sus, liv - ing in truth
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?



Hu - man con - nec - tion or keep - ing score?
By the cre - a - tor of hu - man - kind
We re - main faith - ful to our roots
To re - main hum - ble, lov - ing, and just



In our pur - suit of jus - tice and truth
So when we're in a po - si - tion to judge
When those roots lead us out - side the lines
Keep - ing the heart of the gos - pel in mind



Let us re - mem - ber: we fall short, too
Let us re - mem - ber: they're just like us
Let us re - mem - ber: faith is a - live
Let us re - mem - ber: do what is right

Words: Anna Strickland © 2025 Commissioned by A Sanctified Art LLC, Free for Congregational Use

† GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 23: 23

(Pg. 805) **

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,
For the word of God among us,
For the word of God within us,

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX
Irr.

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SERMON: Rev. Patricia Williams (Retired)

*"The Good News Is: -
JUSTICE, MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS"*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 440

1 Sav - ior, like a Shep - herd lead us, much we need thy ten - der care;
 2 We are thine, do thou be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us do thy will;

in thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use thy folds pre - pare:
 keep thy flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray:
 thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill:

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still;

bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to thee.
 bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779-1847); *Hymns for the Young*, 1836
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)

BRADBURY
 8.7.8.7.D.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying / Dios, oye el ruego de tus hijos

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing,
Dios, o - ye el rue - go de tus hi - jos;

Lord, send your Spir - it in this place;
Dios, pon tu Es - pí - ri - tu a - quí;

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Send us
Dios, o - ye el rue - go de tus hi - jas; da - nos

love, send us pow'r, send us grace!
paz y tu a - mor has - ta el fin.

Text: Ken Medema, b.1943; tr. by María Eugenia Cornou, b.1969
Tune: CHILDREN PRAYING, 9 8 9 9; Ken Medema, b.1943
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SILENT PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG (See Above)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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OFFERTORY MUSIC

† DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

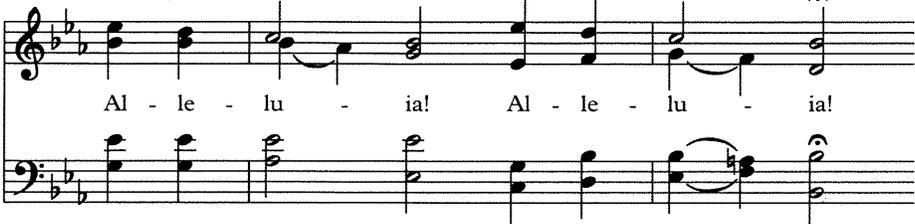


Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;



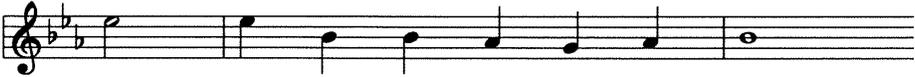
praise God, all creatures here below:

Harmony



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

Unison



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

† HYMN OF DEDICATION

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
 2. Lord, you call us to your serv - ice: "In my
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my
 4. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther,
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am



sick and preach the word." Lest the Church ne -
 name bap - tize and teach." That the world may
 bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for
 what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as
 with you to the end." Faith and hope and



glect its mis - sion And the Gos - pel go un - heard,
 trust your prom - ise, Life a - bun - dant meant for each,
 earth's true glo - ry, Dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward,
 pri - vate treas - ure All that you so free - ly give.
 love re - stor - ing, May we serve as you in - tend,



Help us wit - ness to your pur - pose With re -
 Give us all new fer - vor, draw us Clos - er
 Ask - ing that the world a - round us Share your
 May your care and mer - cy lead us To a
 And, a - mid the cares that claim us, Hold in



newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 in com - mun - i - ty;
 chil - dren's lib - er - ty; With the Spir - it's gifts em -
 just so - ci - e - ty;
 mind e - ter - ni - ty;



pow'r us For the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b.1934, © 1978, Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH, 8 7 8 7 D; Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991, © 1942, ren. 1970, Hope Publishing Company

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*Benediction
 Voluntary

Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Susanne Bosso

Video and Sound Engineer: Brogan Meehan

Cover Art: Provided by "A Sanctified Art",

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***Worship elements by "A Sanctified Art"

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Looking Ahead

Readings for March 29, 2026

Liturgy of the Palms and Passion of Christ

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 / Matthew 2:1-11

Isaiah 50: 4-9/ Psalm 21-9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 / Matthew 26:14-27:66



First United Methodist Church

"Feed the Need"

Putting Our Faith into Motion

By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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