

March 3, 2024



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**Mission
Josh Heikkila
Ghana, Africa**



CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 3, 2024

11:00 AM

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE APPROACH GOD

CHORAL INTROIT

“Behold, the Lamb of God”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Pedersen

In this hour we will pray,

Because we long to draw near to God.

In this hour we will sing,

Because words are hardly ever enough.

In this hour we will sit side by side,

As a reminder that we belong together.

And in this hour we will cultivate faith together.

So let us worship with open hearts.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 36

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Ar Hydy Nos

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we become complacent in our response to you. You set a table of blessing for us but we chase after so many things that cannot satisfy. You show us the urgent needs around us but we indulge our own desires. Forgive us when fall short of your claim on our lives. Disturb our complacency and awaken us to the fruitful life you offer us. Be patient with us as we seek to follow Jesus, in hope of becoming who you intend us to be; in his name we pray. Amen.

*A WORD OF ASSURANCE

God’s love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

In our baptism we have died with Christ and are raised with him.

With gratitude, and in faith, we will walk the way of Christ, forgive, loved and freed. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

A MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Teaching Elder James Bernhardt

(Young people through age four may now be excused to childcare.)

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Come to the Water”
Chancel Choir

John B. Foley

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of creation, break the soil of our hearts, water it with your Spirit, and plant the seeds of your Word, that we may bear the fruit of your joy, generosity, and peace in a world hungry for your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 13:1-9 NT p. 76

SERMON

Teaching Elder Nathan Royster
“Cultivating Hope, Letting Go of Impatience”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN NO. 654

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful” In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful
***In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful;
In the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.***

OFFERING AND REFLECTION

Seek out the signs of hope and new life in circumstances that you are tempted to give up on.

***THE DOXOLOGY NO. 606**

Old Hundredth

***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 DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING**

God of Creation—You gave the wildflower soil to stand in, sunlight to grow in, and water to rest in. You have done the same for us, but so much more. In gratitude for your countless gifts—for community and love, food and shelter, dreams and hope—we give back this small sign of our appreciation. Use it for your glory through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

..we praise you, God,

we praise you, God.

..we bless you, God.

we bless you, God.

..we thank you, God.

we thank you, God.

...we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

The Sharing of the Meal

(Please come forward by the center aisle, as you are able. Receive gluten-free bread and the cup from an elder and return by the side aisle to be seated. Those who need to remain seated will be served where they are.)

Communion Anthem

"Bread of the World"

Dennis Eliot

The Prayer after the Meal

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us to one another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim you hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

TAKING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 680

"Soft Rains of Spring Flow"

Pcocs

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Everyone who is able may stand.

Bold lettering is to be read responsively by the congregation.

Bold lettering that is italicized is to be sung by the congregation.

Cover Art:

"One More Year" by Hannah Garrity © A Sanctified Art | sanctifiedart.org

Sunday Take Home for March 3, 2024

Questions for Reflection

Jesus tells the story of a fruitless fig tree; the owner is ready to cut it down, but the gardener asks for more time to cultivate and nurture the plant. The gardener is open to a more hopeful future for the tree despite its present condition. Where in your life needs special tending? What needs cultivating and what needs letting go so that new growth and possibilities may emerge? What can we learn from the gardener about patience and hope allowing for new possibilities?

Household Prayer: Morning

Gracious God,
this new day carries the potential for growth and new life.
Help me to attend to those things in me
that need care and attention.
Sow your word in me
that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding.
Shake me out of dull routines,
so that I may take part in the good news
you continue to tell and unfold.
In Christ's name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings,
God of my life,
I know that you will be with me
even as you have helped me through this day.
Whether I am weary from the day,
or the day has been a rich feast of blessings,
I give thanks for your power and grace,
which are present in every circumstance.
As I give myself over to rest and sleep,
I remember that your steadfast love is better than life.
So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always.
In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

Based on prayers by John Birch (faithandworship.com) and St. Anselm (11th cent.)

WAYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
March 3, 2024
WELCOME!

"I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called 'not-my-people', I will say 'you are my people' and they will answer, 'you are our God'." (Hosea 2:23)

Wayside Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit.

Be who you are and be welcome here.

FOR OUR CHILDREN

Childcare is available during the entire worship hour for infants and preschool children. Children are invited and welcome to stay in the service, in whatever manner befits their person: they should feel free to squirm, whine, dance, sing, cry, pray, or otherwise make themselves known. Children's worship activity bags are available for children remaining in the worship service. Please return them following worship.

AUDIO AND VISUAL ASSISTANCE

A hearing enhancement system is available for those who have a need. An usher will be happy to provide you with a receiver this morning. Large print bulletins are also available.

Thanks to all those who helped with the worship service today:

Church Opener:	Matt McGill	SNE Greeter:	Kristy Stack
Slides: 8:30:		11:00:	Sarah Jay
Worship Assistant:	Jan Pedersen	Fellowship Time:	Jane Gilewicz
Ushers: 8:30:	Louise Martin, Tim Feltmeyer		
11:00:	Mark Smith, Dan Taylor, Ed Snyder		

A reminder to those scheduled to help next week, March 10:

Church Opener:	Matt McCullough	SNE Greeter:	Neil Kruse
Slides: 8:30:		11:00:	MacKenzie Jewell
Worship Assistant:	Penny Mechley-Porter	Fellowship Time:	Karen Sidorowicz
Ushers: 8:30:	Tim Feltmeyer		
11:00:	Bobbi Jo Fye, Sarah Jay, Jonathan Jewell, Barb Sundberg		

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3-MARCH 10

Sunday, March 3	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class
Monday, March 4	9:30 AM	Stronger Seniors
	6:30 PM	AA
	6:30 PM	Symphonic Singers
	6:30 PM	Sanctuary Bells
Tuesday, March 5	7:30 AM	Online Lenten Prayer Practices
	9:30, 10:30 AM	Music Together with Ms. Mary
	4:15, 5:30 PM	Music Together with Ms. Mary
Wednesday, March 6	9:30, 10:30 AM	Music Together with Ms. Mary
	9:30 AM	Stronger Seniors
	4:00 PM	WOW Club
	5:00 PM	Primary Choir
	5:15 PM	Lenten Prayer Practices
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Dinner
	6:30 PM	Lenten Book Study
	9:00 AM	Yoga with Cathleen
Thursday, March 7	1:30 PM	North Coast Sewing Guild
	6:00 PM	Al-Anon Newcomers
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
	7:00 PM	Lenten Book Study at Rabenolds'
Friday, March 8	8:30 AM	Celebration of Worship
Sunday, March 10	9:45 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Celebration of Worship
	12:15 PM	Confirmation Class

TODAY'S WORSHIP

We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad that is on the aisle end of your pew! This is a way to be known to others and share information with the church. Our deacons like to deliver homemade bread to guests; please leave your address.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers, there is a sheet in the lobby. Florist choice arrangements are \$40; specific requests are \$60.

ISSUES OF FAITH

Today Charlie McClung is presenting Presbyterian apologies and reconciliation with the Seneca Nation. Next week, Mark Smith's sister, Judy Hyde, will be sharing her missionary experience.

FREE CONCERT

The Kenyon College Chamber Singers will be touring through Erie again this week! Wayside has hosted them in the past, but this year they will be performing their eclectic mix of a cappella choral repertoire at the Cathedral of St. Paul on March 7th at 7pm. The concert is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

Do you know some kids who like to sing and act? WOW Choir will begin rehearsing their spring musical, "The Story-Tellin' Man," by Ken Medema, this Wednesday. Any elementary and middle school students are welcome to participate. Invite your friends and neighbors to come at 4:00 Wednesday for a quick snack or at 4:15 for rehearsal!

EASTER FLOWER GARDEN

Help decorate the church for Easter by purchasing flowering plants for the sanctuary. Prices are \$15/plant for lilies, tulips, or daffodils. Sign up at the Information Table or contact the church office. Last day to order is March 17.

MERCY CENTER EASTER EVENT

On Saturday, March 16, Waysiders in 6th-12th grade and their families are invited to help out with the Mercy Center for Women's Easter event. We will be providing crafts and games and helping with an Easter egg hunt. Contact Pastor Nathan if you plan on helping.

SPRING SPEAKER: FAITHFUL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

On Saturday, April 13, Wayside, in partnership with Covenant and the Episcopal Cathedral, will host Avery Davis Lamb from Creation Justice Ministries. The morning session, 10:00-1:00 at Covenant, will be "Scripture and Our Calling to Creation Justice"; lunch is provided. The evening session, 6:00-7:30 at St. Paul's Cathedral, is "Hospitality in a Time of Climate Crisis." Mr. Lamb will then preach and lead Issues of Faith Sunday morning at Wayside. There are cards in the lobby to invite your friends and neighbors, and don't forget to share on Facebook!

EGGS-PERIENCE

On Saturday, March 30, young children and their parents are invited to attend Eggs-perience from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Our annual Easter Party will have a lesson, craft, games, and a snack. Guests are welcome; there are cards on the information table to give as invitations.

PER CAPITA REMINDER

The per capita is a per member assessment charged to all Presbyterians by the PC(USA). This fee supports Presbyterian efforts at the national, Synod and Presbytery levels, with most of the funds returning to our Lake Erie Presbytery. It has been called "part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together." You will find an extra envelope in your contribution booklet this week for per capita giving; the Session thanks you for your generosity!

LOST AND FOUND

Missing a drink container? Can't find your child's sweater or jacket? Wondering where you left your glasses this time? Came home with only one earring? Check the table in the lobby today for lost and found items! The regular lost and found location is in the coat room.

WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

The suggested donations for this week are **tuna** and **canned pasta**. Non-perishable items such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, toiletries, and pet foods are always appreciated. See the newsletter for a suggestion of a "birthday box" donation. Checks can be made out to "West Millcreek Food Pantry;" there is an envelope for donations in the lobby.

PRESBYTERY YOUTH RETREAT

6th-12th graders mark your calendar for April 5-7 for a presbytery-wide retreat at Lamppost Farms in Columbiana, OH. Stay tuned for details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School for 4-year-olds through rising 5th graders will be July 29-August 2. Registration opens May 1! *"God So Loved the World": Caring for ALL of God's Creation*. Pick up a save-the-date card to share with friends and neighbors.

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