



The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love  
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

11:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand  
**Bold print** indicates congregation in unison

We are grateful to be gathered here in the Almond Creek-James River watershed, which we share with a diversity of plants and creatures, including the flowering dogwood, butterfly milkweed, striped bass, northern cardinal, and red fox.

We acknowledge that this land is the traditional territory of the Powhatan Confederacy. May we nurture our relationship with all our neighbors, and our shared responsibilities to this watershed where we gather today.

### GATHERING

The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the Church's identity and mission as Christ's body in the world.  
Gather your thoughts and feelings. Entrust yourself to God's saving grace.

#### Prelude

Psalm Prelude No. 1, Second Set

Herbert Howells

*Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. - Psalm 130.1*

#### Greeting and Announcements

#### Introit

Doug Brown

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem. How often have I desired to gather your children together  
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. - Luke 13:34*

#### + Call to Worship

One: The God of heaven has made a home on earth;

**All: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.**

One: The highest in all creation lives among the least;

**All: Christ journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.**

One: Come now all who thirst

**All: and drink the water of life.**

One: Come now all who hunger

**All: and be filled with good things.**

One: Come now all who seek

**All: and be warmed by the fire of love.**

+ Hymn 35 *Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty*

#### Prayer of Confession

*Kenyan traditional*

Leader: Lis - ten, All: lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. 1.(lis - ten) 2. joy.

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses and deliver us from proud thoughts, vain desires, and despair. Help us to draw near to you: confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ your son.**

Silent prayer

## Assurance of Forgiveness

+ Response (sung three times)

Alexander Archangelsky

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and might - y, Ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

### WORD

*Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.*

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 [NRSVUE]

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates ...."

Psalm 27

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;**

One: though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to seek God in the temple.

**All: O Lord, you will hide me in your shelter in the day of trouble; you will conceal me under the cover of the holy place and will set me high on a rock.**

One: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in your tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to you, O Lord.

**All: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek the face of the Lord!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

One: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

**All: If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up. Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**

One: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

**All: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

Luke 13:31-35 [NRSVUE]

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 314 *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*

+ Affirmation of Faith

[adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*]

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female and non-binary, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

***We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.***

***Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.***

***We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,***

***One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.***

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST

*Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.*

Offering



*Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.*

*Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.*

Offertory

Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks

Herbert Howells

*Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God.*

*My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God:*

*when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?*

*My tears have been my meat day and night: while they daily say unto me,*

*"Where is now thy God?" - Psalm 42:1-3*

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.***

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.**

SENDING

*Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.*

+ Hymn 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

+ Postlude

Psalm Prelude No. 3 (Second Set)

Herbert Howells

*Sing unto the Lord a new song: play skillfully with a loud noise. - Psalm 33:3*

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Liturgist is GPPC's Seminary Intern, Katie Carboni. Our lector is Paul Gill. Our livestream operator is Chuck Webb. Owen Sharman is lead usher.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at [ginterparkpc@gmail.com](mailto:ginterparkpc@gmail.com).

LENTEN GATHERINGS

*(For additional details, please see the website ([ginterparkpc.org](http://ginterparkpc.org)), the newsletter, or contact the church office.)*

Mondays until April 14, 2025, Meeting Jesus at the Table Study, 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Thursdays until April 10, 2025, The Word Around the Table - Lenten Supper & Bible Study, 5:45pm to 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, Conversation about William Barber's *The Third Reconstruction*, 7:00pm online

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 - 11:00am Worship at GPPC

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025 - Evening Worship at First United Presbyterian Church, details TBA

Good Friday, April 18, 2025 - 7:00pm Worship at GPPC

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025 - 11:00am Worship at GPPC



Remember to sign up by March 23rd for our **Easter Season Dinner Club!** Join us for fun and informal small group dinners in April, May and June. To register, scan the QR code to the left or click on this link: <https://forms.gle/gKmc1LX6vd8rd6tb6>.

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