



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

February 22, 2026

First 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

Preludio al Vespro di Monteverdi

Michael Tippett

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Doug Brown

When he saw him, he was moved with pity. - Luke 10:33b

Call to Worship

[by Gill Le Febre, adapted]

One: As darkness gives way to light and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,

All: we come to be reminded of God's love for us.

One: Like the green shoots of renewed life, stirring beneath the soil,

All: we welcome an awakening of God's word in our lives.

One: In this time of reflection and repentance,

All: we affirm our identity and claim our security as children of God.

+ Hymn 806 I'll Praise My Maker

Confession of Sin and Pain

[adapted from a prayer on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba]

Kenyan traditional

Leader:

All:

The musical notation is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of two staves. The first staff (Leader) starts with a quarter note followed by a half note. The second staff (All) begins with a dotted half note. The lyrics are: "Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing, of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. . . . joy." The notation includes a first ending bracket labeled "1.(lis - ten)" and a second ending bracket labeled "2." with a repeat sign.

Eternal God, we ask your forgiveness for the times when we have chosen badly, opting for the easy way of habit and social convention, rather than the higher and harder ways of Jesus. We confess that sometimes our choices have been made from rank selfishness, with little concern for those around us, even for those who love us dearly. We ask your forgiveness for times we have put off decisions, hesitating and avoiding choice until opportunity has gone by. We confess also that we have sometimes made outwardly good decisions for the wrong reasons, driven by selfish motives.

Holy God, Savior and Friend, we thank you that long before we face up to ourselves and frame our confessions, your mercy in Jesus is waiting for us. We rest our mortal lives in your immortal life, allowing your grace, mercy, and peace to cleanse, refresh, and straighten us.

One: Breathe into our humanity, loving God, that we may fully live.

(After each petition, take a deep breath in ... and let it out.)

Breathe your Spirit into our minds, that our decision-making may be pure and wise. BREATHE.

Breathe your Spirit onto our lips, that our speech may bear witness to life and light and holy joy. BREATHE.

Breathe your Spirit onto our hands, that in their busyness they may serve you before all else. BREATHE.

Breathe your Spirit onto our feet, that we may tread this earth with gentleness and respect. BREATHE.

We pray all these things through Christ Jesus, our liberator.

All: Amen.

Response (sing three times, seated)



Alexander Archangelsky

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

Assurance of Forgiveness and Healing

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

Luke 10:25-30 (NRSVUE)

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied

A *Godspell* retelling of Luke 10:26-37

Song

Learn Your Lessons Well from *Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

+ Hymn 700 *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

[from the Iona Abbey Worship Book]

We believe in God in whom is power and compassion

We believe in the Creator, who gave birth to the universe, set solar systems dancing in space, shaped molecules and mountains, and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.

God's power topples tyrants and brings down walls of separation;

God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father, encouraging and caring for us.

We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land - a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.

He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,

spoke the truth with courage and clarity, forgave his enemies and changed lives.

In his living, dying, and rising again he showed love strong enough to save the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who sustains, comforts, and empowers us, opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.

+ 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.

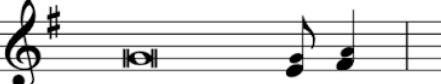
Prayers of the People

One



Hear our prayer, O Lord;

All



listen to our cry.

One

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All

who made heaven and earth.

One

The Lord's unfailing love and mercy never cease,

All

Fresh as the morning and sure as the sunrise.

One

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All

"Lord, have mercy" is repeated after each iteration of "In peace, let us pray to the Lord".

One

...who rules over all things.

All

Amen.

EUCHARIST

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

From *Cantata Misericordium*

Benjamin Britten

Chorus: Ecce, tertius appetit – sed languescit spes auxilii: nam propior videtur esse contemptus Samaritanus. Quid interest Samaritani Iudei negotia suspicere molesta?

Viator: Miserere mei, hospes, afflicti.

Samaritanus: Ah, di boni! Quid audio? Quid ante pedes iam video? Iacet hic nescio quis immania passus. Age, primum haec vulnera adligem. Ubi mihi vinum? Ubi oleum? Sursum, iam susum imponam te in tergum iumenti mei.

Chorus: Vicit, ecce, vincit tandem misericordia. Hic pedes ipse comitatur eum in deversorium.

Samaritanus: Ohe, caupo, siquid audis: aperi portam. Viatorem adfero a latronibus spoliatum. Aperi, quae so... Benigne.

| Para nobis cenam, caupo, para cubiculum, amabo. | Mihi cras abeundum erit. Cura hunc dum convalescat. Dabo tibi duos denarios.

| Viator: Iam rursu revivesco. Iam spes in animum redit. Optime hospitum, quis es? Unde es gentium? Salvus quomodo tibi gratias referam dignas?

Samaritanus: Quis sim, unde sim gentium, parce quererere. Dormi nunc, amice, dormi: iniuiarum obliviscere.

Chorus: Mitis huius adiutoris qui servavit saucium Proximumque sibi duxit hospitem incongnitum, O sis similes existant ubicumque gentium! Morbus gliscit, Marc incedit, fames late superat; Sed mortales, alter quando alterum sic sublevat, E dolore procreata caritas consociat.

Tenor et Barytonus: Quis sit proximus tuux iam scis.

Chorus: Vade et tu fac similiter.
–Patrick Wilkinson, for the Red Cross Centenary

Chorus: See now, a third is appearing – but hope of relief is fading: for from near he is seen to be only a despised Samaritan. What interest has a Samaritan in taking up the troublesome affairs of a Jew?

Traveler: Pity me, stranger, pity me: I am suffering.

Samaritan: Ah, good gods! What do I hear? What do I see before my feet? Here lies someone who has been horribly treated. Come, first let me bind up these wounds. Where is my wine, my oil? Up, now I will lift you up on to the back of my beast.

Chorus: Triumph! Mercy is triumphing at last. This man is accompanying him to an inn himself on foot.

Samaritan: Ho, innkeeper, do you hear? Open the door. I have with me a traveler who has been stripped by robbers. Open, please... Thank you.

| Prepare us supper, innkeeper, and a room, please. | Tomorrow I shall have to go on. Look after this man till he gets better. I will give you two denarii.

| Traveler: I am coming back to life again. Hope is reviving in me. Best of strangers, who are you? From what people do you come? I am saved, and how can I thank you worthily?

Samaritan: Who I am, and what my people, ask no more. Sleep now, my friend, sleep: forget your injuries.

Chorus: O that people like this gentle helper, who saved a wounded man and treated as his neighbor an unknown stranger, may be found all over the world. Disease is spreading, war is stalking, famine reigns far and wide. But when one mortal relieves another like this, charity springing from pain unites them.

Tenor and Baritone: Who your neighbor is, now you know.

Chorus: Go and do likewise

+ 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 747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (sing twice)

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

+ Postlude

Prelude and Fugue on a Theme of Vittoria

Benjamin Britten

The 2026 Nominating Committee Seeks Your Recommendations

Who might be gifted and called to lead GPPC in the coming years? The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is beginning its work and invites you to help them identify who might serve God and GPPC as a Ruling Elder, Endowment Foundation Board Member, Trustee, or member of next year's Nominating Committee. To make nominations: either email the church office (ginterparkpc@gmail.com) or complete the form (*available in the Narthex*). Place your completed form in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or pass your suggestions to a current CNC member: Judy Harr, Lindsey March, Gavin Mauritsen, Linda Peebles, Jen Pullen, and Igmar Sanchez-Prunier.

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Pastor is Carla Pratt Keyes, and our Director of Music is Doug Brown. The livestream operator is Anna Creech. Scott Carswell is lead usher.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNS are available from an usher in the Narthex.

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.