

Worship Order
March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent
9:30 AM Online Worship

WELCOME

+ WE GATHER BEFORE GOD +

MOMENT OF SILENCE

LIGHTING OF TRINITY CANDLE

As we strive to be a community of faith that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love,

we light this candle in the name of the Father, the Son and the Spirit
who surround us in this moment of worship.

WE COME TO GOD IN WORSHIP

Again and again,

We come to this space.

Again and again,

We gather as a community.

Again and again,

We move closer to God.

And again and again,

God is here.

We are met.

We are heard.

We are shown the way.

So again and again,

Let us worship holy God.

HYMN ELW 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
Public Domain

GREETING

The mercy of God, the love of Jesus
and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

WE CONFESS TO GOD

Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day.
35,000 choices each and every day!

In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask:
How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make?
How many are not?

So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if we fall,
God is showing us the way.

Silence for reflection

God of Justice,
We are guilty of building tables.
**We have built tables that oppression dines on,
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

God of Justice,
We are guilty of forgetting where we are,
**Of turning faith into a negotiation tool
And the church into a place for insiders.**

God of Justice,
We are guilty of ignoring the point;
**For you taught that the temple was for worship
And your message was for all.**

God of our hearts,
Be in our decision making.

Draw near to our choices.

Forgive our mistakes.

And as you do,

Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.

With hope we pray for a better day. **Amen.**

People of faith,

The good news is that God took on flesh and walked this earth to show us the way.

God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks like to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption.

God took on flesh to teach us another way.

God took on flesh to point us to restoration.

God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.

Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven by a just and merciful God.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

PRAYER FOR THIS DAY

Creator God,
We don't just want to listen.
We want to hear you.
We want to read scripture aloud and
Know that you are as close as you have always been.
We want to read scripture aloud and
Feel your word resonating inside our bones.
We want to read scripture aloud and
Have your words stuck in our heads like a melody,
Falling off our lips like a love song.
Creator God,
We don't just want to listen,
We want to hear you.
So turn our hearts toward you,
Just as you turned strangers into disciples.
Turn our ears toward you,
Just as you turned tables in the temple.
We are listening.
Amen.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We are turning, Lord to hear you, you are merciful and kind –
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

WE PROFESS OUR FAITH IN GOD

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—
a God who stands with the underdog,
who passionately protects the suffering,
and who overturns systems of corruption.**

**We believe in a God who leads by example—
feeding the hungry,
welcoming the children,
offering water to the Samaritan,
eating with the tax collector,
healing the sick,
preaching from the mountaintop,
and offering second chances.**

**We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,
and still said, "This is my body broken for you."**

**We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,
and still said, "I'm going to prepare a place for you."**

**And because of this love,
we believe that God shows us the way,
again and again and again.**

Thanks be to God. Amen

WE PRAY TO GOD

You are our strength and our redeemer:

grant us your wisdom, O God.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful and gracious God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Holy Ground - Davis

Cathy Texter, soprano

CCLI Song #21198, Copyright ©1983 Meadowgreen Music Company, All rights reserved

CCLI license 1490857, Podcasted/Streamed with permission under CCLI Streaming License CSPL176799

+ WE FEAST AT GOD'S TABLE +

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

The peace of God, that washes over us again & again, be with you all.

And also with you.

*Take a moment to share a sign of the peace with those who are worshipping in your household.
If you are alone, take a moment to receive God's peace for yourself in the silence.*

WE COMMUNE WITH GOD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Again & again, God promises to feed us,

and so we come to the table to receive grace after grace from our God.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WE SHARE THE MEAL CHRIST GAVE US

Share the bread and wine with those in your household using the words,

The body of Christ, broken for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WE ARE SENT OUT +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN ELW 549 Send Me Jesus

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus;
send me, Jesus; send me, Lord. (Send me, Jesus.)

I am willing; I am willing;
I am willing, willing, Lord. (Send me, Jesus.)

Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus;
send me, Jesus; send me, Lord. (Send me, Jesus.)

Text: South African, Public Domain

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you leave this space,
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
May your arms hold those in need.
May your feet walk toward justice.
May your heart trust its worth.
May your soul dance in God's grace.
And may this be your rhythm—
Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.

Amen.

SENDING MUSIC There in God's Garden – arr. Farlee

Introductions and Alternate Accompaniments for Organ, Vol. 2. Published by Augsburg Fortress. Tune: K. Lee Scott, © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publications, Inc., Arrangement: Intro, Cherweien, copyright © 1989 Augsburg Fortress. Acc. I. R. B. Farlee, copyright 2005. OneLicense.net #A-709256
Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256.

The liturgy for today's worship service was reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons.com, copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #45176. The hymns and songs unless otherwise noted, are covered under copyright licenses; CCLI 1490857, OneLicense.net A-709256, or are Public Domain. Copyright 2021

Opening liturgy and statement of faith by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Mark Your Calendar

Mon, Mar 8th 7:30pm Council Meeting (zoom)
 Tue, Mar 9th 7:30pm Lenten Journeys of Faith (zoom)
 Wed, Mar 10th 7:30pm Mid-Week Lent Service, Palm Schwenkfelder (zoom)
 Thur, Mar 11th 7:30pm Pub Theology (zoom)

 Sun, Mar 14th SPRING FORWARD ** Easter Flower Orders due**
 9:30am Worship Service (zoom)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Worship Attendance 2/28/2021 – Zoom - 57 households		
Giving Amounts	Total received between 2/20-27/2021	Amount Needed between 2/20-27/2021
General Fund	\$5,419.50	\$5,608
Building Fund	\$467.50	
<i>Weekly average is based on the 2021 budget. A weekly building fund amount needed is no longer reported as the building fund has been used for the mortgage, which has been paid off. All other building expenses are included in General Fund budget and giving. The above numbers include electronic giving. Mint duty is being done every other week for the time being.</i>		

Capital Campaign Activity Update	
Capital Campaign Contributions Pledged	\$ 260,000.00
Capital Campaign Contributions received between 1/10-23/2021	\$132.50
Capital Campaign Contributions received to date	\$ 249,241.15

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers:

Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Patricia Wheeler, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, David Mounts, Ann Lewis, Carolyn Iris, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead, Theresa Hasson, Renaud Fix, Joseph and Lisa Yost and Theresa Gross.

WORSHIP IN LENT

Sunday mornings – join us as we dig into the theme *Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain*
9:30 AM Sundays on Zoom

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats – every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation, we exclaim, 'Again?! How long, O God?' And yet, in the midst of the chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: 'I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.' Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

Tuesdays - Adult Faith Formation: Lenten Journeys of Faith

Tuesday evenings starting February 23 thru March 30
7:30 PM on Zoom

Wednesday evenings – join us as we explore the theme Created for Community

7:30 PM Wednesday evenings on Zoom (see weekly email for link)

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church.” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community. Using readings from Mark’s gospel, our mid-week Lenten worship will invite participations to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God, especially at a time when we are physically distanced from one another.

- **March 10** – *In community with our neighbor* – Pastor Nick Pence and the people of Palm Schwenkfelder, Palm
- **March 17** – *In community with those on the margins* – Pastor Deb Schwartz and the people of Friedens UCC, Sumneytown
- **March 24** – *In community with Christ* – Pastor Homer Royer and the people of New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville

Worship will be followed by a fellowship time utilizing breakout rooms on Zoom for small group gatherings.

Lenten At-Home Service Project

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is in serious need of personal care kits. Their warehouse shelves are nearly empty and they cannot keep up with the demand. This Lent, St. John's invites you to create personal care kits at home. Make one - make 10. You determine what you are able to give based on your family's personal situation.

**The challenge - we have 200 active families at St. John's -
our hope is to collect 200 personal care kits - this Lent!**

Visit the LWR website (<https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>) to get all the information you need on what goes in each personal care kit and how to package it. If you want to participate but need the information sent to you, please call the church office.

Personal care kits can be dropped off at one of two times:

Sat. March 20 from 9-11 am (during the food collection drop-off time)

Sat. March 27 from 9-11 am (when palms will be available for pick-up)

You can also drop off personal care kits at the church office,
Monday thru Thursday (9 am to 12 noon) the week of March 22.

Meal Train for Brian & Jennifer Allebach

As you may be aware, Brian Allebach, former chancel choir director at St. John's, was diagnosed with ALS in 2019. As the disease progresses and life changes for the Allebachs each week, we are hoping to support them in whatever ways we can.

A meal train, to provide one home-made meal two Saturdays a month, has been started. To access the meal train sign-up, see what dates are available and find out all the pertinent information, see the weekly email or contact the church office.

Brian also loves to receive cards - so feel free to drop one in the mail to their home address, which is:

Brian Allebach

1096 Soffa Road

East Greenville, PA 18041

Thank you for your tender care for this family at this challenging time - and watch for new ways to be present with and for them in the months to come.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in to the Bake a Hug project. From everyone on the initial brainstorming zoom call to naming the project, designing the advertising, creating the senior over 70 list, creating the tags, baking the cookies, packing and delivering the cookies. You warmed some hearts and make some seniors smile! Thank you for all your time and efforts!

~Joyce Foesig

Flower Orders! Help dress up the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and send some cheer to our homebound members!. Place your order no later than Sunday, March 14th for flowers to honor or remember someone special. Order forms are available on the website (www.stjsumneytown.org) and in the weekly email.

Reverse Egg Hunt - YPO missed the Egg Hunt last year - but we're not letting a pandemic ruin the fun this year ... so get ready for the First Ever Reverse Egg Hunt at St. John's.

How does it work?

1. Sign up your family to participate.
2. Let us know how many children are in the family and what their ages are.
3. On Sat. April 3rd between 9-11 AM, YPO members will visit your house and hide filled eggs in your yard for your kids to have their own safe egg hunt after we depart.
4. That's it!

Contact the office to sign your family up to participate in the Reverse Egg Hunt.

Candy Donations Needed! To help the YPO prepare for the Reverse Egg Hunt, donations of INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED Easter Candy are needed.

Donations can be dropped off at church during normal business hours (8:30am - 12noon M-Th) as well as during the food collection drop-off time; Saturday, March 20.

Thank you for helping us share the sweetness of Jesus' love with the children of the church!

YPO Spring Flower Sale! It's not too early to start dreaming about spring...and flowers! The YPO will be hosting their Mother's Day weekend Flower Sale. All proceeds will go to support the youth adults traveling to Minneapolis in July 2022 for the National Youth Gathering.

Flower Sale orders are **due by Sunday, April 18** - flower will be available for pick up at St. John's on Saturday, May 8 from 9-11 AM.

Order forms can be found on the website or by contacting the church office.

Thank you for supporting the youth as they participate in this life-changing experience.

Join the Book Club in March!

Date: Thurs. March 25 at 7:30 PM (Zoom)

Book: Tomboy: The Surprising History and Future of Girls Who Dare to Be Different by Lisa Selin Davis