

***FAITH LUTHERAN  
CHURCH***

*170 Mansfield Ave.  
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050  
(740) 393-3666*



***Pastor***  
Rev. Cody Blust

***Secretary***  
Pat Hoar

***Music Director***  
Rebecca Keck

***Bell Choir***  
Shelley Grubb

***Grounds***  
Steve Conrad

***Custodian***  
Randy Peck

***OUR MISSION STATEMENT  
“TO KNOW AND SHARE GOD’S LOVE”  
INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH!!***

***Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026***

***Worship Time 8:00 & 10:30 am  
Sunday School 9:15 am  
Fellowship Time 9:15 am***

† Indicates - Please stand if comfortable

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Prelude:** Prelude on “Pleading Savior”

*arr. Smith*

† **CALL TO WORSHIP: 322 Oh, Love, How Deep** vs 1

Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

† *Hymn 321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

†

**Kyrie**

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

†

**Come, Let Us Join**

- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name

ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: LET US PRAY: O God, our leader and guide,

C: **in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen**

**Choir Anthem: Have You Seen My Jesus?** (page 16) *by Wagner*

## First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

## Psalm 121 (*congregation reads the verses in bold*)

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming  
in, from this time forth forevermore.**

## Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does

the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. <sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

†

### We Are Turning Lord



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

### † Gospel: John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or

where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.”<sup>12</sup> “If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?”<sup>13</sup> “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.”<sup>14</sup> “And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,”<sup>15</sup> “that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

## **YOUTH MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

† *Hymn 666 What Wondrous Love is This*

† **NICENE CREED** *Page 104*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

† **THE PRAYERS**

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

† **SHARING THE PEACE**

**Offertory: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

*by Converse*

† **Let The Vineyards**

☞ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.



## The Great Thanksgiving

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. Ⓞ And al - so 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

## Great Thanksgiving



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Let us join together in praying our Lord's Prayer:

**C: 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**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Distribution of Communion:** use this time for prayer & meditation

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

† **Post Communion Prayer**

P: LET US PRAY: God of our salvation,

**C: we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

† *Hymn 326 Bless Now, O God the Journey*

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

*by Peeters*

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**WELCOME** to the worship of the people of God who are Faith Lutheran Church. May you feel the presence of the Lord in our midst and hear His Word spoken to your heart. For more information contact us at [faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com) or check out our website at [FLCMTV.org](http://FLCMTV.org). Our mission at Faith Church is **To Know And Share God's Love.**

***IF*** you are a ***GUEST***, you are invited to sign our guest book in the narthex with your name, and contact information, so we may give you a cordial welcome, and an invitation to return to worship with us soon. If you have children, please check out our Children's Activity Center on the wall in the narthex. Changing tables are available in Room 207 and Room 211 (Nursery). There is also a private mothers' space available in Room 214. Contact an usher if you need assistance.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is being celebrated today. The invitation to commune is extended to all Christians who are seeking to follow Jesus in their lives. We have glasses of white grape juice available for those who request it. Just ask the communion assistant as they come to you. Come join us as our brothers and sisters as we gather as God's family at His table. Infants and children may be brought to the altar for a blessing by the Pastor. Communion recipients are asked to give the communion cards to an usher when coming forward. This is the only record we have of those communing. Visitors are asked to give their home church on the reverse side of the card so we can forward notification of your communion with us

***FLOWERS*** on the altar are given *by Greg Thomas* to the glory of God and in thanks and praise for all He's done for us. And in honor of His Risen Son.

#### ELCA GOOD GIFTS

In December, the Faith Women decided to fund 2 gifts: a Community Garden for \$200, and a Computer for a Community Center for \$800. If you would like to donate for this project, a donation container will be on the table in the narthex. Your good gift will be a good gift for people who need them.

#### LENTEN SPECIAL GIVING

Council has designated the Church Parking Lot Replacement Fund as the recipient of our Lenten Special Giving proceeds.

#### MIDWEEK SERVICE AND MEAL

The season of Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Christ. As part of our Lenten practices, we will be having Midweek Soup and Salad dinners beginning at 6 pm. The Midweek dinners will take place on Wednesdays through March 25th in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to offer a soup or salad there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer will be Saturday, March 7th at 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen. You are invited to share the experience of the Christian women of Nigeria in a service written by them. Scripture, song and a playlet will be the service for this day. You will be able to eat some traditional Nigerian foods as well. Maybe there will be jollof rice, chin chin, suya and there could be more. If you have attended past events, you have shared in the life and traditions of Christians in other nations. Come and join us for this time of prayer and praise with the women of Nigeria.

### MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

Come and share this study, I AM: God's Holy Name and Promise, Bread, vine and light: Abiding with us.

Leading the study is Jenny Grinstead with refreshments furnished by Laurel Johnson. We will see you, Tuesday, March 10th at 1pm. Copies of the study will be available on the Faith Women's bulletin board.

### EASTER FLOWERS

**TODAY, MARCH 1st** is your last opportunity to order those beautiful Easter flowers, and please **make checks out to Richardson's Greenhouse**. I have included an order form for you to use in ordering your flowers with choices of plant type and color as well as the prices. Please, also **fill in the designation line** as to how you would like your flowers listed in the bulletin. Let's make the sanctuary even more beautiful for our Easter services.

### KEYS, KEYS

If you have a key to the church that you no longer use, please turn it in. You can give it to any council member or put it in Nick Myrda or Sally Berger's mailbox in the office. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact Sally or Nick.

### HOPEWOOD OUTDOORS' MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

This is exciting because it is their 50th celebration and will be happening on Sunday, March 8th, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Hopewood Pines. Please see bulletin board for all the details.

## CRAFTS SUPPLIES NEEDED

Wondering what to do with all the unwanted craft supplies you dredge out while Spring cleaning? How would you like to donate them to a good cause? There's a group of women in Ohio working to help the homeless by making useful items to give to shelter inhabitants and to sell to buy things to give to the men, women, and children living on the streets of Ohio. They are currently residing in the Women's Reformatory in Marysville. They crochet blankets for those sleeping on the streets out of grocery bags (to be waterproof), knit and crochet stuffies for the children, and any other crafts they can donate or sell. They need supplies. Any kind of craft supplies (including yarn ends) that you no longer need, or any new supplies you would care to purchase (especially yarn) so they can work towards their goals of reforming their lives and finding atonement for their offenses. Grocery bags (plastic bags of bright colors are especially needed), beads, paper crafts, or anything else that could be used for handicrafts would be welcome. I will gather anything you find to donate after second service every week or call me to pick up. 740-398-9403 Becky Matulich. I will continue collecting and delivering supplies until the end of May and then as needed after that.

## GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Since 2011 the church has been present on Facebook in the form of a Facebook group. The Faith Lutheran Facebook Group has been a place for sharing news, devotions, and conversations. We want to continue to have a space for the conversations to continue and make sure information can be easily found. In pursuit of this goal there will be some changes coming to the church's social media presence. The Council at the recommendation of the Communication Committee have approved the formation of a church Facebook page and updated guidelines for the Facebook group. What does this mean? The Facebook page will act as the "front porch" of the church where we will post information regarding services, the link for service livestreams, and other important information. The Facebook Group will serve as the "Living Room" of the church where devotions and conversations will continue to take place. To keep the conversations civil in the group there will be new guidelines posted in the about section of the group that will help keep things civil. The guidelines will also be posted on the church website so anyone can view them. We look forward to this new era of our social media presence and the conversation that will continue to happen.

## FAITH EVENTS

740-393-3666 email: [faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com)

740-393-2729 (fax) Website: [FLCMTV.org](http://FLCMTV.org)

YouTube address:

<https://www.youtube.com/@FaithLutheranChurchMTVernon>

### CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF MARCH 1 - 7, 2026

Today:	8 & 10:30 am	Worship/Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	4:00 pm	Bell Choir
Mon	11:00 am	Jesus Calling
	7:30 pm	AA
Wed	10:00 am	Stitching Hour
	1:00 pm	Faith Women's Board Meeting
Thurs	9:00 am	TOPS
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sat	2:00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer

**Move your clocks forward one hour**

PLEASE PRAY FOR: MEMBERS: Jordan & Nico Barnard, Phyllis Bigler, Vicki Blubaugh, Joe Curran, Jackie Driscoll, Larry Everhard, Jan Frye, Larry Gruber, Eileen Hartman, Jon, Ann Jurkowitz, **Kathy Lamb**, Judy Mustaine, **Dan Myers**, Kathy Noblit, Steve Norberg, Stan Park, Fran Smyser, Bryan Ulmer, Bob Van Horn.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Linda, Marie, Rose Allen, Linda Beach, Phyllis Blust, Devin Boyer, Nora Burke & family, Purell Butts, Mike C., Kathy & Larry Daubensteck, Aaron Everhard, Kayla Gadd, Linda Galyon, Chester Gingerich, Grant, Lon Hamby, John Harris, Jr, Kellie Hoar, Miriam Hulse, Susan Jeffery, John Jones, Eddie and Miranda Jones, Beth Kost, Danny Jurkowitz, Barb, Marv & Rob Keck, Dean & Marilyn Kempton, Debra Kempton, Jerry Kies, Linda Lampl, Dr. William McFarren, Jim Major (friend of Pastor Mark Wildermuth) Greg & Grace Maxwell, Scott Mickley, Tina Miller, Donald Morehour, Sue Moreland, Anderson O'Briskie, Clarence, Quinton (friend of Alex Jones), Shirley Ramsay, Julie & Brian Ramsey, Bruce Renne, Jan Rice, Sam Robert, Mona Russell and Heather & Danielle, Karen Scott, Wayne Snyder, Gabe & Micah Stauffer, Willow Steiner, an 8 month old with "Spitz" cancer, Martha Stuller, Becky Thomas, Josie Watts, Adam Wilford, Pam Wolfe, Karen Zedeker, Ziva, and all others on our hearts and minds.

PRAYER SHAWL RECIPIENTS (in the last three months): Mike Cordrey, Toni Cordrey Allen, Michelle Lee, Titus Strausbaugh, Miranda Jones, Dylan.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY: Gavin Thomas, Master Sargent Christopher Dominick.

**Bold** indicates new.

## SERVING OUR LORD TODAY

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Ushers	Tom Noblit Mike Eesley	Art & Corrine Lund
Readers	Greg Maxwell	Ann Dice
Comm. Assist	Melissa Dexter	Sally Berger
Acolyte	Will Melick	Will Pletcher
Altar Guild - Kathy Noblit		
Communion Committee: Martha Denman & Pat Ferenbaugh		
Tellers - John Hoffman & Will Melick		

## SERVING OUR LORD NEXT SUNDAY

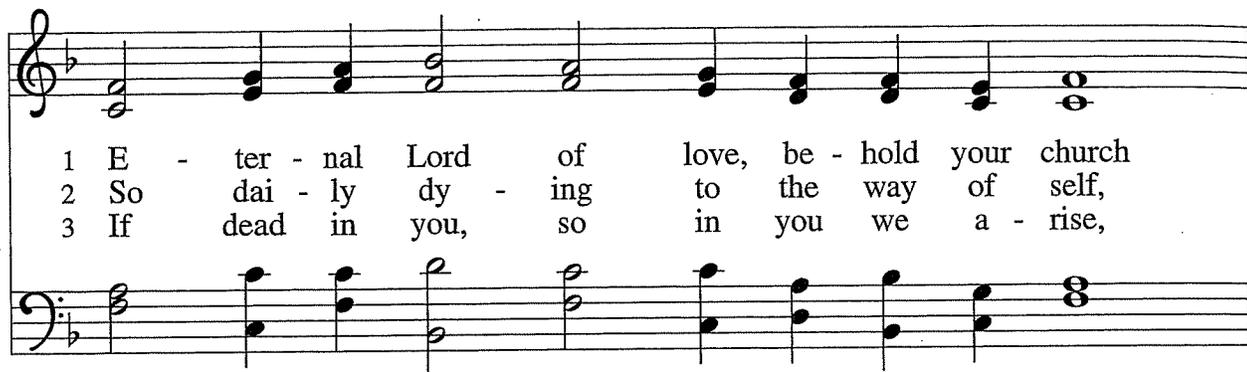
	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
Ushers	Frank & Kathy O'Hare	Stephen Volz Tim Williams
Reader s	Mike Eesley	Marilyn Wilford
Acolyte	Bette Mishey Catherine Eesley	Connor Driscoll
Altar Guild - Kathy Noblit		
Tellers - John Hoffman and Will Melick		

### **Choir Anthem**

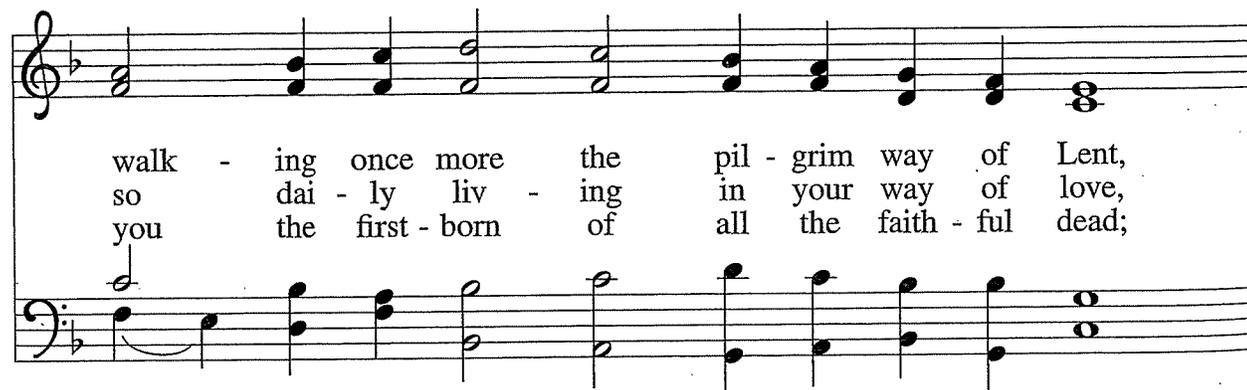
#### ***Have Your Seen My Jesus by Wagner***

*O, have you seen my Jesus?  
I seek Him night and day, but no comfort I find;  
No rest can I take, for I heard they took Him away.  
And on the high hill, Calv'ry,  
as prophets once had said, now for my sins my Lord is  
slain, in drops of blood so red.  
Deep was the grief He suffered long, as alone  
His painracked body hung; But for me the  
song seems still unsung: "He died that I might live!"  
May waters pure and holy, that from  
His side do flow, make clean my guilt, wash away  
my sin, and help me his love to know.  
O have you seen my Jesus? O have you seen my Lord?*

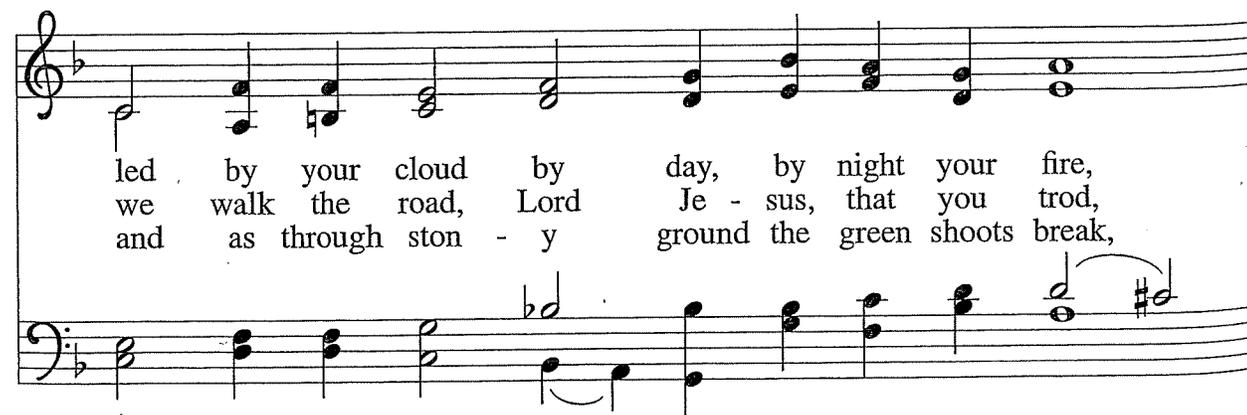
## 321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



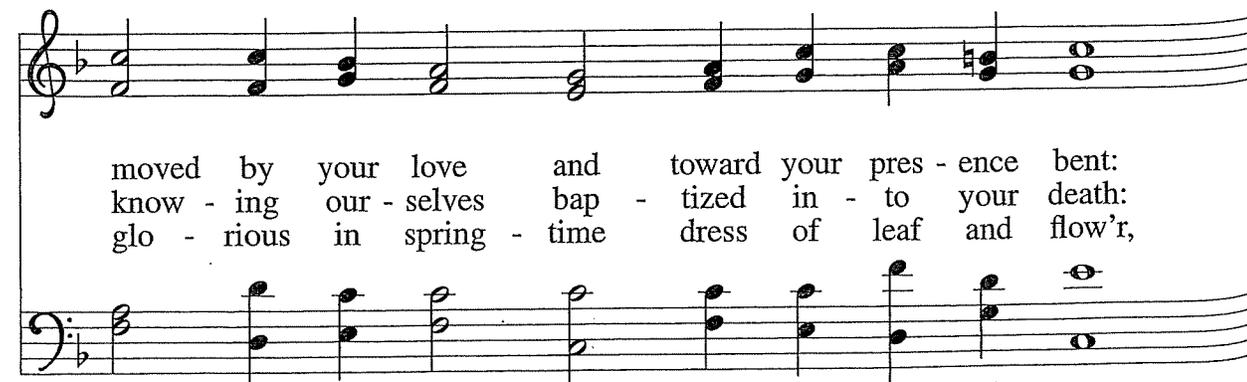
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

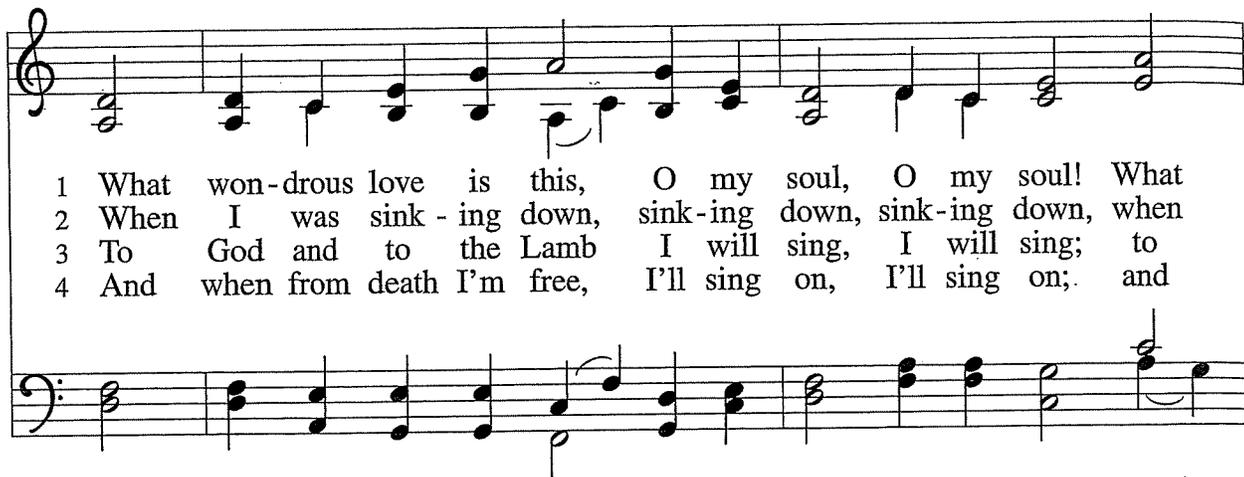


led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

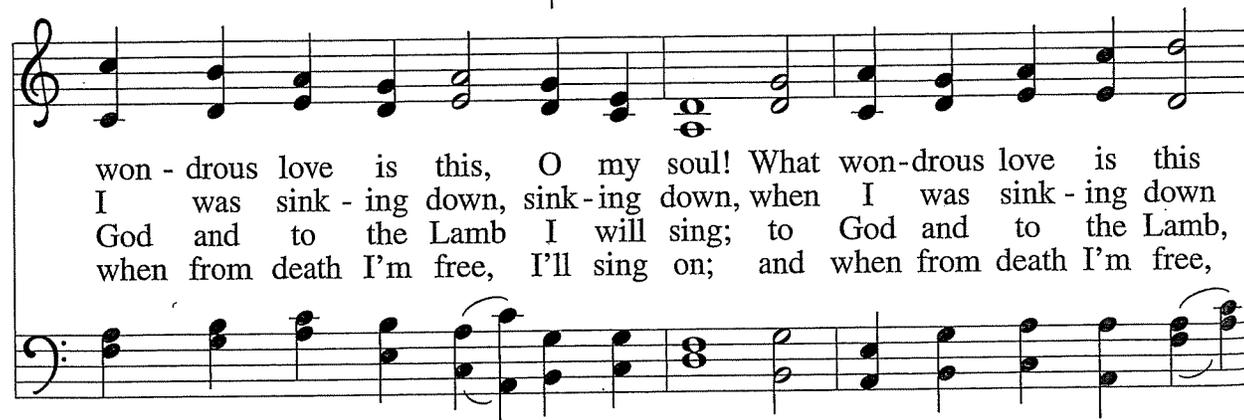


moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

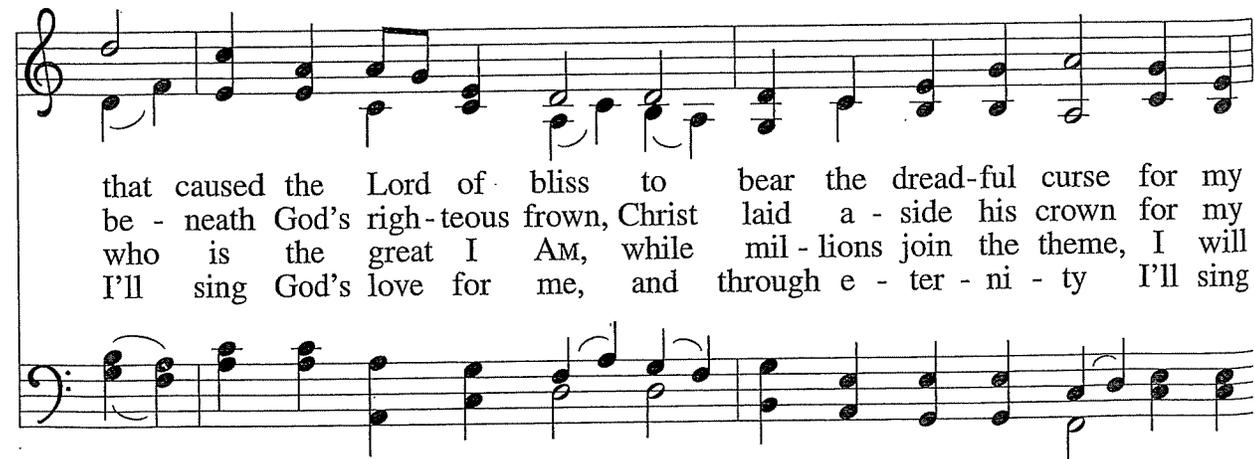
## What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## Bless Now, O God, the Journey

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1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## EASTER CHURCH FLOWERS

This Easter we are offering flowers from Richardson's Greenhouse in Loudonville. Please use the form below, and return to the church office with payment enclosed, by Sunday, March 1st. Checks should be made out to "RICHARDSON'S GREENHOUSE".

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TYPE OF FLOWER</u>	<u>COST</u>
_____	<u>6" Potted Easter Lily with multiple blooms</u>	<u>\$11.00</u>
_____	<u>6" Potted Yellow Daffodils</u>	<u>\$11.00</u>
	<u>6" Potted Tulips</u>	
	____ Red, ____ Pink or ____ Yellow	
	Due to supply, florist may substitute color choice	<u>\$11.00</u>

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list designation ( in memory of, in honor of, to the glory of God, etc.)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR FLOWERS AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE**

# World Day of Prayer



World Day of Prayer (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together for an annual observance of a common day of prayer and action on the first Friday in March. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the WDP worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up in prayer the challenges and issues experienced by women and children across the globe. The WDP's motto is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." WDP promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service, and celebration.

The country of focus for WDP 2026 is Nigeria, and the theme "**I Will Give You Rest: Come**" is drawn from **Matthew 11:28-30**. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens – shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair – the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. The Nigerian WDP Committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

This year's worship service features a playlet about a young girl named **Chioma** and stories of three Nigerian women: **Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing**. Their experiences reveal how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope. The Bible Study explores divine rest from creation to Jesus' time, examining wisdom traditions and Jesus' transformation of rest from rigid rules to liberating mercy. Original music composed for the service includes a moving theme song by **Chisom R. Chukwumerije**. The song invites those who are weary and oppressed to find comfort and rest in God.

As we prepare for WDP 2026, may we learn to embody Jesus' invitation: "**Come to me, all you who are weary.**" Together, let us become channels of God's rest in our troubled world.

With prayerful regards,  
Neethi Prasad  
Chair – WDP-USA

# World Day of Prayer 2026–Nigeria



*Title: Rest for the Weary*  
*Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah*

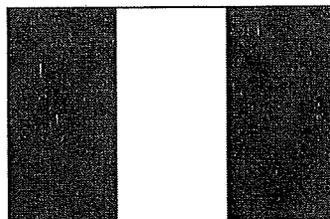
## About the Artwork

The artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women, whose lives are marked by endless labor from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often

carrying both their harvest and their children - a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head, while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush.

The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria's diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying. These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation in **Matthew 11:28**, **"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."** When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.



## Neethi Prasad, Chair - World Day of Prayer USA

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