



March 23, 2025 – Livestream  
Third Sunday of Lent

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

*The Church's One Foundation*

arr. J. Honoré

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, Trinity of Love, open our eyes

**People: to see your beauty in one another.**

Leader: Open our ears

**People: to hear your truth through one another.**

Leader: Open our hearts

**People: to receive your love from one another.**

Leader: Open our lips

**People: to sing your praises with one another.**

\*OPENING HYMN #545

*The Church's One Foundation*

***The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word.***

***From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.***

***Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.***

***Though with a scornful wonder we see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.***

***Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.***

*Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.*

OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal God,  
you have called us to be members of one body.  
Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name;  
that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church,  
and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*

C. Courtney  
Daniel Lewis, trumpet

*One faith, one hope, one Lord, one church for which he died.  
One voice, one song, we lift in praise to him who was and is and shall be evermore.  
There is one body, one Spirit, as you were called to one hope.  
One Lord, baptism and faith, one God, Creator of all, above all, and through all, who is in you all.*

*Refrain*

Though we be many people, diverse with various gifts,  
we are given to each other for the unity of faith,  
to grow in knowledge of the Son of God, in the fullness of Christ.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #785

Psalm 51:1-17

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;

**People: according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.**

Leader: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin!

**People: For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.**

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless in your pass judgment.

**People: Behold, I was born guilty,  
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.**

Leader: Behold, you desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**People: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Leader: Make me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**People: Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: cast me not away from your presence,**

**and take not your holy spirit from me.**

Leader: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**People: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.**

Leader: Deliver me from death, O God, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

**People: O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.**

Leader: For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**People: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

TA Inskeep

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 27:2-6

<sup>2</sup>On that day: A pleasant vineyard, sing about it! <sup>3</sup>I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it. I guard it night and day so that no one can harm it; <sup>4</sup>I have no wrath. If it gives me thorns and briars, I will march to battle against it. I will burn it up. <sup>5</sup>Or else let it cling to me for protection, let it make peace with me, let it make peace with me. <sup>6</sup>In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots, and fill the whole world with fruit.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF PRAYER #2227

*We Are the Body of Christ*

***One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, we are the body of Christ.***

***One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.***

***And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.***

***One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, we are the body of Christ.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Though he was rich,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, for our sake  
became poor so that by his poverty  
we might become rich in mercy.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins:

**People: Ever Faithful and Loving God,  
in your gracious presence we confess our sins.  
We have failed to be an obedient church:  
to bear one another's burdens,  
to serve our neighbors,  
and to share our gifts.  
Forgive us and free us  
to make gratitude our way of life together,  
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: grant us peace.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2127

*Kyrie*

***Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.***

***Christe, Christe, Christe eleison.***

OFFERTORY PRAYER

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Prayer of St. Gregory*

A. Hovhanness  
Daniel Lewis, trumpet

\*LENTEN DOXOLOGY

***Praise God throughout these forty days.***

***Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.***

***And praise the Spirit who imparts***

***God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.***

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16

<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Peculiar People, Part 3: The Body of Christ*

Darren Cushman Wood

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #547

*O Church of God, United*

***O church of God, united to serve one common Lord,***

***proclaim to all one message, with hearts in glad accord.***

***Christ ever goes before us; we follow day by day***

***with strong and eager footsteps along the upward way.***

***From every land and nation the ordered ranks appear;***

***to serve one valiant leader they come from far and near.***

***They chant their one confession, they praise one living Lord,  
and place their sure dependence upon his saving word.***

***Though creeds and tongues may differ, they speak, O Christ, of thee;  
and in thy loving spirit we shall one people be.***

***Lord, may our faithful service and singleness of aim  
proclaim to all the power of thy redeeming name.***

***May thy great prayer be answered that we may all be one,  
close bound, by love united in thee, God's blessed Son:  
to bring a single witness, to make the pathway bright,  
that souls which grope in darkness may find the one true light.***

\*THE CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

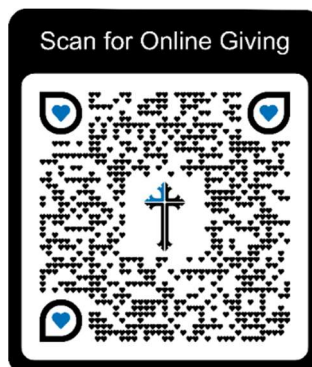
*Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand*

arr. M. Wood

*A Single Stalk of Wheat*

*The message accompanying this banner is found in John 12:24. While speaking with Andrew and Philip, Jesus said, "I must die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrow of the earth. Unless I die, I will be a lone, single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels, a plentiful harvest of new lives." The banner represents the meaning of a fruitful life, one filled and lived with the presence of Christ constantly showing love in our experiences and decisions. Doris Douglas, the creator of this banner, wrote, "May this banner speak to your heart its message of one who lived on this earth showing the importance of we being the body of Christ and a light to the world."*

*The flowers on the altar are given for the glory of God and  
in honor of Donald Eugene Smith-Brown ("Mr. Don").*



### Upcoming Events:

April 4, Pacer Game, 7:00pm

April 6, Children's Earth Day Fun Day Mission, 12:30 – 2:00pm

April 9, Prayer Workshop with Pastor Joel Everson,  
5:30-7:00pm in the Club Room

April 13, Youth Egg-stravaganza! (grades 6 – 12), 12:30 – 3:00pm

April 15, LGBTQ+ Dinner, 6:00pm

April 26, Community Clean Up Day, 10:00am-1:00pm

April 27, Earth Day

### Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, April 13

Holy Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm

Good Friday, April 18, 12 noon and 7:30pm

Easter Sunday Services, April 20, 8:30am and 11:00am

### This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

*Senior Pastor*

Jill Moffett

*Pastor of Community Formation*

John Hague, James Horton &

Allen McCormack

*Audio Visual*

Mark Gilgallon

*Music Director*

Heather Hinton

*Organist*

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