

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

The Shepherd of the Flock

Gilbert M. Martin

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
(verse 1)

St. Anne

***Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter
from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.***

*RESPONSIVE OPENING SENTENCES (*John 3:17, Psalm 46:1-3*)

One: God sent Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save.

All: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in times of trouble.

One: Therefore we will not fear; though the earth should change, though the
mountains tremble, though the waters roar,

All: God's love endures forever.

*GATHERING SONG #53 *O God, Who Gives Us Life*
(verse 1)

Noel

***O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb, who
guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you. Help us to know
your Spirit still is making all things new.***

(verse 2)

***O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare, to plumb the
bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there: when we despair in
wandering through wastes of empty lies, refresh us with the living
spring of hope that never dies.***

(verse 3)

***O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame, your mighty
deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your name. Yet we by faith are
drawn to you and will your people prove, as on our hearts you write
anew the covenant of love.***

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INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

One: Beloved people of God; Lent is a time to prepare to celebrate our
redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We
begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and
for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel. I invite you,
therefore, to observe a holy Lent:

**All: By self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works
of love and meditating on God's Word.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Let us pause to examine our hearts, looking for how we have failed to live
up to that which God has commanded:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles and temptations. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from our hurtful and misguided ways, so that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven!
Know this and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #702** *Christ Be Beside Me*
(verse 1)

Bunessan

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: In Christ we discover a peace that surpasses all human understanding.
Let us share that same peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days so that we might be reformed, restored, and renewed through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’

⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

*Please stand as you are able.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING *Psalm 23*

One: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

All: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

One: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

One: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Touch Me With Ashes

Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 10:11-18*

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

THE MESSAGE

"The Flock"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, your Son came among us and, like the good shepherd, gave his life for your sheep. Accept our humble gratitude for this act of courage and sacrifice. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORDS PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY *When in the Hour of Utmost Need* Johann Michael Bach

***DOXOLOGY #634** *To God Be the Glory* *To God Be the Glory*
(refrain)

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice! O
come to the Father through Jesus the Son, and give him the
glory: great things he has done!***

*Please stand as you are able.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #773** *Heaven Shall Not Wait* *Heaven Shall Not Wait*
(verse 1)

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience, the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend: Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted; in him injustice confronts its timely end.

(verse 2)

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes, the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least: Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege: to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

(verse 3)

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas, thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain: Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain.

(verse 4)

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs, when earth has passed and we reach another shore: Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

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***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Come As You Are* *Rand & Rand*

***FINAL BLESSING**

POSTLUDE *Sing to His Name!* *Gilbert M. Martin*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers today are given by Ruth Gurd in memory of beloved family members.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



**Any cleaning supplies or anything you would like to donate.
There will be a cleaning supply distribution on February 13th.**

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



**The group will meet Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
February 22**

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any bulky size-5 or 6 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked "yarn" in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, March 6 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, March 7 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at
440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for "Give Now" button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Gerry Chittock