

March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

This Sabbath Hour

James Southbridge

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #388

Come All You People

Uyai Mose

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come all you people, come and praise your Maker; come now and worship the Lord.

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***RESPONSIVE OPENING SENTENCES (adapted from Psalm 95)**

One: O come, let us worship and bow down;

All: Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

One: For the Lord is our God,

All: And we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

***GATHERING SONG #2128 (STF)**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

Beach Spring

(verse 1)

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

(verse 2)

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

(verse 3)

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: As we walk through the wilderness of Lent, we confront, with honesty, how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, so that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession helps us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who already loves us will hear us. Therefore, we need not fear, but can draw near to the love of God, with honesty, first together, and then in silence...

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of endless renewal, God who rescues the lost and saves the afflicted, God who calls us to lives restored, there are times when we go astray. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for ignoring opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand even more ready to forgive than we are to confess what, in our lives, stands in need of your grace. And forgiven, help us to lean in to what you would teach us about who and how we are to be. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, and for his sake.

(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (based on Acts 8)

One: Who is able to condemn us? Only Christ Jesus who died, yes, but who was raised and sits at the right hand of God who intercedes for us.

Believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #702** *Christ Be Beside Me*
(verse 3)

Bunessan

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Because we have peace with God through Christ, let us share this peace together. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts - a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 18:1-11*

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' ⁵ They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' ⁸ Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' ⁹ This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom

*Please stand as you are able.

you gave me.’ ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?’

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING *Psalm 17:1-7 (Common English Bible)*

One: Listen to what’s right, LORD; pay attention to my cry!

All: Listen closely to my prayer; it’s spoken by lips that don’t lie!

One: My justice comes from you; let your eyes see what is right!

All: You have examined my heart, testing me at night.

One: You’ve looked me over closely, but haven’t found anything wrong.

All: But these other people’s deeds? I have avoided such violent ways by the command from your lips.

One: My steps are set firmly on your paths; my feet haven’t slipped.

All: I cry out to you because you answer me. So tilt your ears toward me now – listen to what I’m saying!

One: Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways because you are the one who saves those who take refuge in you,

All: Saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.

CHORAL ANTHEM

God Help the Outcasts

Menken & Schwartz

Soloist: Marilyn Rodenhausen

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 18:12-27*

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, ‘You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

²⁰ Jesus answered, ‘I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.’ ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’ ²³ Jesus answered, ‘If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?’ ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, ‘You are not also one of his disciples, are you?’ He denied it and said, ‘I am not.’ ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with him?’ ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

UNISON PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, like Peter, we often wander away and turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live, by walking boldly with and passionately toward you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S 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 We Are Tested

Carlton R. Young

***DOXOLOGY SONG #716**

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
(verse 1)*

Beach Spring

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store, nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door: gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise; thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING SONG #783**

*When We Are Tested
(verse 1)*

Angels of Healing

When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone, nourish us, God, by your word and your way, food that sustains us by night and by day.

(verse 2)

When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief, lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.

(verse 3)

When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the power to control, teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.

(verse 4)

When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right, Savior, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

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***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Come As You Are

Rand & Rand

*Please stand as you are able.

*FINAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing

Gerhard Krapf

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.:
March 8 & 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

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!

The next meeting will be:
Tuesday, March 10

Our study this year is:

PCUSA: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Meet September — May the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Books are available and cost \$14.00. To order a book or for more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

Mid-week Lunch Group – March 10



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (March 10, April 14, May 12, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

College / Military Care Packages



The Deacons are gathering contributions to send gift cards to our college / military students over the next few weeks. If you have a loved one you would like included, please share their name and address with the office or Brenda Wahl.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

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



Ground beef, hard / soft tacos, taco seasoning, sour cream, shredded cheddar, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, refried beans, corn bread, anything for tacos, or anything you would like to donate.

There will be a Taco Tuesday distribution on March 24th.

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.

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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Liturgist: Sean Bulanda

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Donna Bush