

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEASON OF LENT

GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS: ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE SPACE IN BETWEEN

MORNING WORSHIP | FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 2023 | 8:30 & 10:30 SERVICES

GATHERING

•WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Chris Currie

Steven Blackmon, organ

Denise Dunkel Morse

•*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is not sappy and sentimental,

It upsets bad religion when it gets in the way of God.

The love of God is not generic tolerance,

It loves the least, the last, and the lost, and forgives when we want revenge.

The communion of the Holy Spirit is not just a vague feeling,

It lovingly pursues us when we run away, and calls forth our best in the face of our worst.

Spirit, open our hearts, to the joy and pain of living.

Open our hearts to the fullness of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Sung response, Hymn 692, "Spirit, Open My Heart":

Spirit, open my heart, to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.

Spirit, open my heart.

•*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord our God, we expect to meet you here and now in our worship together, through Word, written, spoken, and proclaimed, through our prayers and our praises. Send your Spirit to dwell among us, so that through our worship together, we can live with grateful hearts, loving and forgiving actions, and transformed lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

•†*HYMN 692

"Spirit, Open My Heart"

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

•CALL TO CONFESSION

•PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

For the right roads we avoided traveling, and the kindly words we refused to share; for the false gods who received our worship, and the true selves we have starved of love; O Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly, and the promises which we never kept; for the careless use of our time and money and the lame excuses we should never have made; O Lord, by your grace, forgive us.

For all we should be and all we can amend and all we can work to change; O Lord, by your Spirit, renew us.

For all you have in store for us and for all you may demand of us; O Lord, through your Spirit, prepare us.

For the life of the world, for the love of its people, for the future that awaits us, O Lord, in your love, commit us. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Blackmon

•ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

†MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Katie Brendler

•SECOND READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

John 11:17-44

•SERMON

"Jarring and Beyond Our Control"

Chris Currie

•*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: "The Apostles' Creed" (*unison, Hymnal, p. 35*)

•*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

"Glory Be to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Rev. Dr. James S. Currie, Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (*Hymnal, p. 35*)

•THE OFFERING

Offertory

"Thy Perfect Love"

Rutter

Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, thy perfect love close in my breast, that I thee love and never rest,

and make me love thee of all things best, and wound my heart in thy love free, that I may reign in joy evermore with thee.

The Chancel Choir

*Doxology, Hymn 606

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

•SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (*8:30 service only*)

SENDING

•*HYMN 286

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

•*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

"An Irish Blessing"

Blackmon

•*VOLUNTARY

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

TODAY'S ACOLYTES are Craig Egan and Wyn Ziegler.

TODAY'S COMMUNION SERVERS for the 8:30 service are Nancy Davis and Beth Poe.

TODAY'S USHERS for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Miriam Hollar, Thomas Schulingkamp, and Wesley Simon; and for the 10:30 service are Stephanie and Pete November (co-captains), David Grissett, Jeanie Clinton, Polly Hardie, Brenda Stephens, and Catherine and Luke Lemoine.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in honor of our devoted church ushers, past and present, for their loyal service, by Holly and Geoff Snodgrass.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30-10:15 AM | DETAILS AT [SCAPC.ORG/SUNDAY-SCHOOL](https://scapc.org/sunday-school)

ADULT CLASSES:

"John Knox & How the Scots Invented the Modern World": led by John Dunlap and Chris Currie
February 12-March 26 | Land Building, Lakeside Room and Zoom

Due to the contributions of John Knox and the reform movement that gave birth to the protestant church in Scotland, an environment was created that nurtured a literate society, education for all, faith that asks questions and seeks understanding, free thought and inquiry, a larger commitment to the ethical vision of society, and a say in the affairs of government.

"God, Improv, & The Art of Living": Book by MaryAnn McKibben Dana | January 8-April 30 | 2nd floor conference room
This book blends personal stories, pop culture and Scripture into a smart, funny down-to-earth guide to the art of living.

Upcoming: **"He Descended into Hell: Jesus Went There and Why it Matters"**: led by Chris Currie | April 2 only
Nearly every week we profess that 'he descended into Hell' in the Apostles' Creed. Why is it important that Jesus went to Hell? How does it help us make sense of Jesus' death and resurrection during Holy Week and beyond?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION: All children are invited to gather in the Narthex at 10:20 a.m. next Sunday to participate in the palm procession.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT begins each week with a pastor-led study on "A Vocabulary of Faith...a.k.a. Theology for Beginners" at 5:15 in the Phifer Library, followed by dinner at 6:00 in Frampton Fellowship Hall. This week we will be preparing supplies for the PW Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday. On the menu will be chicken and dumplings, green beans, salad, fruit, and Easter cookies. Dinner reservations are required **by tomorrow at 5 p.m.** at scapc.org/wno.

FLOWER OUTREACH PROGRAM: The Congregational Care Committee is looking for volunteers to help assemble small flower arrangements on Monday mornings from 9-11 a.m. These arrangements will be brought to members in special need of outreach. No experience is necessary! To sign up, scan this code with your phone camera and tap on the link that appears. You can reach out to Gail Kaliszeski at gkaliszeski@simon.com with any questions.



SPRING DAY OF SERVICE: This Saturday, April 1, all are encouraged to join in our annual Spring Day of Service, where we will spread out into the community and work alongside our Community Ministry Partners for the morning. There are opportunities for all ages and a variety of projects for different skill sets and interests. We will meet at the Land Building at 8:30 a.m. for prayer and breakfast, then proceed to work sites. Work will conclude by noon. Sign up at the table in Frampton Fellowship Hall!

THE YAF (YOUNG ADULTS & FAMILIES) CRAWFISH BOIL will be held this Saturday, April 1 (no foolin'!) on the Land Building front lawn. We hope you can join us for crawfish and lawn games from 12-2 p.m.! Please RSVP to Tyler (tyler@scapc.org) by tomorrow.

THE PW EASTER EGG HUNT will take place next Sunday following the 10:30 service at the home of Louellen and Darryl Berger, 6000 St. Charles Avenue across the street from the church. All are welcome! We are seeking donations of treats to fill plastic eggs, refreshments for the day of the hunt, and help with set-up and clean-up. Please sign up at scapc.org/pw.

DINNER WITH OUR UKRAINE MISSION PARTNER: Please join us for a Pot Luck Dinner with our Ukraine mission partner, Bob Gamble, on Monday, April 3, at 6:15 p.m. in the Land Building. Bob will update us on the work of his organization, *This Child Here*, in the midst of the continued war in Ukraine. Please bring a salad, appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert.

BAKING BREAD AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: The 40/50 group and the McMillan Society are teaming up to present a dinner and webinar from 5-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4. Teri McDowell Ott, *Presbyterian Outlook* Editor, and Kendall Vanderslice, a professional baker and practical theologian, will lead us in baking bread. During the video demonstration, Teri and Kendall will speak about the spirituality of baking. Dinner will be at 5 p.m. in the Land Building and the video presentation will follow in Frampton Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. The cost is \$15/person and can be paid by check to SCAPC with "bread baking" in the memo, or Venmo to Michele @michele-murphy-12. Please note that this is an adult-only event and childcare will not be provided.

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