



Sunday Worship
March 17, 2024
Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.

** indicates where the congregation is to stand if able*
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord is making a new covenant with the people of God.

Here in this place, Christ writes the law of love on our hearts.

We are children of the living God.

Together, let us worship the Lord of Love!

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of love and justice, we gather together to worship you: to offer our thanks and praise and to proclaim your goodness and mercy. Meet us here. Breathe your Word into our souls; engrave your covenant of love upon our hearts. Teach us faithfulness and compassion so that our lives may reflect your love and justice to the world. Amen.

***HYMN #33 Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show**

1. Praise the Lord! God's glories show, Alleluia, saints within God's courts below, Alleluia.
angels round the throne above, Alleluia, all who see and share God's love. Alleluia.

2. Earth to heaven exalt the strain, Alleluia! Send it, heaven, to earth again, Alleluia!
Age to age, God's mercies trace, Alleluia! Praise God's providence and grace! Alleluia!

3. Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia! in the concert, bear your parts, Alleluia!
All that breathes, your Lord adore, Alleluia! singing praise forevermore, Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS

O Heart which seeks our own: we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with the foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in rhythm with your own. In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole, Steadfast Love. Write grace upon our hearts, so we might be more forgiving people; write mercy on our hearts, so we might become more welcoming people; write hospitality upon our hearts that we might become more like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who came for all people, even us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON John 12:20-33

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN #223** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

SERMON Whose Laws Do You Follow?

CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

As you write upon our hearts, soften them with your compassion. As you soften them, open us to the needs of those close to us, as well as those in every corner of your world. As you open us to the hurts and heartaches of your children, give us the grace to be as generous with our gifts as you are in blessing us. Take these gifts and use them to share peace, love, grace, and joy with all of your people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN #692**

REFRAIN: 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.

1. God replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. **REFRAIN**
2. Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. **REFRAIN**
3. May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. **REFRAIN**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MARCH 17, 2024

This week's carillon is in memory of Martin Klair. Martin lived in Buckingham and was the father of Nancy Klair Smith.



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| March 24: | 10:00 AM | Palm Sunday worship. |
| March 27: | 11:30 AM | Midweek Communion |
| March 29: | 6:00 PM | Good Friday Worship. |
| March 31: | 9:00 AM | Easter Potluck Breakfast |
| | 10:00 AM | Easter Festival Worship |
| | 11:00 AM | Easter Egg Hunt |

SIGN UP FOR EASTER BREAKFAST: Put on your Easter Bonnet and join us for a Potluck Breakfast at 9:00 Easter Sunday. It is a great way to begin the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and new life offered to each of us – that's the best reason to celebrate!!! Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

SIGN UP FOR GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Once again we will be combining the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with a service on Friday, March 29 beginning at 6:00. We begin by observing Jesus' final meal with his disciples with our own meager meal of soup and bread. Help us to know how many to expect by signing up for this sacred observance in Fellowship Hall. After the meal, we will move to the sanctuary as we remember Jesus sacrifice on the cross.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: VBS will be held once again at Anchor Presbyterian Church on June 24-28, 9:00 – noon. Registration for those ages 3 yrs. – 6th grade can be made on <https://www.myvbs.org/Forestgrove/>. Teen helpers (7th – 12 grade) as well as adult leaders are needed. Please contact Pastor Su if you would like to help.

SUMMER CAMP AT JOHNSONBURG: Registration for summer camp programs at the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Johnsonburg is open. There are lots of great options for kids from 1st – 12th grade. Learn more at <https://www.campjburg.org/>. Forest Grove Church has a long-standing commitment to camping ministry by making camping available to all. Scholarships are always given for this powerful faith-nurturing experience. Let Pastor Su know if your child will be attending.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: This week we are asking for the following items: Fresh Produce that does not require refrigeration. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

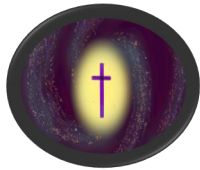
This week's calendar of events:

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| March 17 | 10:00 am Worship and Sunday School followed by Fellowship 11:00 am Easter Choir Rehearsal 4:00 pm Iglesia Pentecostal Asamblea De Dios Worship Service |
| March 18 | 9:30 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 71 Meeting |
| March 19 | 10:00 am Stewardship Meeting 6:00 pm Beekeepers 7:00 pm Property Meeting |
| March 20 | 11:30 am Lenten Mid-week Communion Service 12:00 pm Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship |
| March 21 | 6:00 pm Beekeepers |

Elder of the month: Maggie Rash **Deacon of the month:** Louise Stemplewicz
Ushers: Courtney Woolslayer and Rachel Dell'Orefice **Sunday School Teachers:** Ruth Squillace
Fellowship: Emilie Cullerton

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,
Mary Lou Humlhanz, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton, Becky Schroeder,
Wes Schroeder, Eloise Hyndman, Don Huber, David Posnett, Dick Wright. Sharon Ruth



Church Staff
Susan Fall, Pastor
Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator
Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager

