

March 3, 2024 Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Third Sunday in Lent
 Slackwood Presbyterian Church
 2020 Brunswick Avenue, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

GATHER TO WORSHIP

As a consideration to all who seek to worship this morning, please turn off or mute cell phones and other electronic devices.

Bell of Invitation
 Welcome & Announcements

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Call to Worship

Leader: Our Lenten journey continues. Often the road has been stony and hard. Sometimes we have stumbled and even fallen.

People: But God, our guide, walks with us. We have no reason to be afraid. God is faithful to us, even when we are faithless.

Leader: Today we rejoice in God’s faithful love and ask for God to give us strength and hope.

People: We are drawn together to witness to God’s presence with us through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

*Hymn #402 “How Lovely, Lord” MERLE’S TUNE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*In Unison*)

You gave us your Son, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness, of apathy and indifference, of frustration and despair. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world.

Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may our words be shaped by your Word; may our thoughts be refined by

your grace; may our deeds be inspired by your Spirit, so everyone we meet may see your work in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. (Time for silent prayer) Amen.

*Words of Assurance

*Gloria Patri (#581)

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.

(Following the time of confession, young people ages 3 to 10 may leave for a time of activity.)

HEARING OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading -- Psalm 19

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem “Pie Jesu” Marcy Pyrtle

Second Reading -- John 2 13-22

The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Jesus, the Discomforter” Rev. David Bowman

*Affirmation of Faith. *“The Apostles’ Creed”*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn #432 “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord” REPTON

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Call for Offering

Offertory

*Doxology (#606)

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #510

COME, SHARE THE LORD

“We Gather Here in Jesus Name”

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise....

(Prayer continues)

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.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

(Please hold the elements till all have been served and partake together at the instruction of the officiant.)

Prayer after the Meal

*Hymn #775 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” WALK WITH ME

*Charge and Benediction

DEPART TO SERVE

**Those who are able may stand.*

Announcements

Christ's Ministers in the World: All members of the church

Interim Pastor: The Rev. David Bowman

Director of Music: Dr. Shelley Sanders Zuckerman

Director of Family Ministries: Starr Alleyne

Liturgist: Shirley Hafford

The Peace Candle in the Chancel is lit to remind us of the gift of Christ's peace and our call to be peacemakers.

Welcome to everyone who is worshipping this morning. If you are visiting, we hope you will feel very welcome and that you will stay for refreshments and conversation.

Pastor Bowman's contact information:

Email: dfbsbv@gmail.com or Telephone: 732.547.3480

The **Adult Forum** meets weekly at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. The link is sent in the Saturday announcements email.

The **confirmands** meet at 9:00 a.m.

The **choir** rehearses at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Mission Study Small Group Discussions – Following worship this morning, and again on Sunday, March 10, following worship, the mission study team invites you to discover more about who we are as a congregation and who Jesus is calling us to be!

Today - learn and discuss the results from the congregational survey completed this past fall. Even if you did not sign up for today's session, feel free to stay.

March 10 - work together to build a path forward as Slackwood church develops vision and mission statements and learns how God is calling Slackwood church to serve.

Can't make the meetings in person? No worries! There will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheets are in fellowship hall. ALL voices are important,

Daylight Savings Time begins March 10. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour - otherwise you'll be late to worship and early for the Mission Study Team meeting.

The **Christian Education Committee** will meet on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The **Lenten Study Group** will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. The link is in the weekly announcements email.

The **Christian Education Committee** extends an invitation to all to spend time with the church's youngest disciples during worship in the upcoming spring and summer months. The commitment would be one or two Sundays. There are wonderful volunteers who are already sharing the schedule, but the committee wants to make sure to involve others who would like to do fun activities, lead a bible craft, teach a bible story, sing worship songs, and assist with prayer. Speak with Mark Thomas or Starr Alleyne.

The year's **St. Patrick's Day Talent/No Talent** night will be on Saturday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m. The covered dish dinner will be followed by performances by our congregation's talented (?) people. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in fellowship hall.

It's that time of year again! The **2024 Community Summer Fair** will be held on August 17. Planning is in the works and we would LOVE your help! It takes many people to pull this amazing outreach opportunity off. There will be a sign-up on the fellowship hall table to join the committee or you can email Ginger Baker at gingerwells55@hotmail.com. Zoom committee meeting to follow in a week or two.

Orders are now being taken for **flowers for the chancel on Easter Sunday**. There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall for daffodils, hyacinths, tulips or lilies. Or, you can place your order by calling Susan Gibbs at 609.695.8764. The deadline to place your order is March 10.

The **spring outdoor clean up day** has been set for March 23. Come out for an hour or two or the whole morning — whatever time you can spare – and help get the church grounds ready for spring and summer. Rain date will be March 30.

Those people remembered in the prayers of the people last week are: Emma, Karla & Aaron, Julie & Ava, Elena, Scott, Tina, Sharon, Mary, Carrie, Sam, Mike, Ben, Amanda, Brooke, those impacted by nature or violence, the marginalized and forgotten, the divisiveness in the world, Shaun, Jill, Ebbie, Laura, Nona, Cindy, Audrey, Cory, Joann, Bill, Anne & Gene, Terrie, Brothers family, Melvin, Marilyn, Mylan, Fran & Troy, Janet, Gwen, Tom O., Jim, Jaq & Kim, MJ, CR, Dennis & Joan, Tia & family, Elaine, Debi & Doug and Melissa.

Looking Ahead – This year's Maundy Thursday service of worship will be held on March 28 and will be a joint service with other Presbyterian congregations in Lawrence Township. Held at the Lawrence Road Church, there will be a joint choir and a dinner of soup and bread. Slackwood needs people to provide soup and/or bread. There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall to sign up to contribute.

Easter Sunday will include receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. There is an envelope in your box of offering envelopes for your contribution, or you can write a check to Slackwood Presbyterian Church and put OGHS on the memo line.