



**March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

GATHERING AND PRAISE

Welcome

Pastor Larry

Prelude

There's Room at the Cross for You

Stanhill

The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.

***Call to Worship**

Susan Hubbuch

L: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

P: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

L: Come and let us worship with great joy!

P: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

L: God is about to do something new in our lives!

P: Let God's will become strong in our lives. AMEN.

***Opening Prayer**

Susan Hubbuch

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN.

*** Hymn**

Come, Thou Almighty King

UMH 61

View words on last page.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

Susan Hubbuch

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing our love with all as we pass the peace of Christ.

Children’s Time

Pastor Larry

Ministry of Music

Sharing the Love

Choir

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Prayer for Understanding

All Praying

Susan Hubbuch

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace — so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses ... so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. Amen.

John 12:1-11

12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. **3** Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, **5** “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” **6** He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. **8** You will always have the poor among you,^[c] but you will not always have me.”

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **10** So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, **11** for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

UMH 334

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Affirmation of Faith

UMH 885

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all His works, and whose will is ever directed to His children's good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the Gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen

Morning Prayer

Pastor Larry

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory Invitation

Susan Hubbuch

We sing our praises to the Lord, for God is good and worthy! We give our whole selves — our talents and material possessions — to the Church with the expectation that they be used to further God's dream for our world. Please commit yourself and give as you're able.

Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

I Love Thee

Ritter

**Doxology Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Prayer of Dedication*

Susan Hubbuch

Loving God, we offer you the gift of our lives, recognizing all you provide for each of us. Please receive the symbols of each of our lives presented in this offering. And accept, as well, the good intentions of our hearts and minds as we offer you our time and talent, that we might live in gratitude rather than in fear. AMEN

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

***Closing Hymn**

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I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

TFWS 2151

***Benediction**

Pastor Larry

Choral Benediction

Shalom to You

UMH 666

Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

Postlude

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Baloche

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing,
help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

2. Come, thou incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our prayer attend!
Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy word success;
Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

3. Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

4. To thee, great One in Three,
eternal praises be,
hence, evermore.
Thy sovereign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity love and adore!

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

Refrain:

***Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us,
Filling us with your love;
And for these blessings
We lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that
We have been revived when
we shall leave this place.***

I'M SO GLAD JESUS LIFTED ME

I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
I'm so glad, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me.

3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.