

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026

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## THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“A Lenten Psalm Offertory”

Wihla Hutson

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Strickland, Liturgist

Leader: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

**People: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.**

Leader: During the day, Jesus comes to invite us to serve.

**People: We rise from our work and leisure to bring healing and hope to others.**

Leader: In the shadowed evenings of our fears and worries, the Spirit is with us.

**People: May we discover that God’s grace is with us in every moment of every day, and especially now, as we worship together.**

### \*HYMN #744 *(see bulletin)*

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

Duck/Walter

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Confident of God’s character, let us confess our sins together so that we might receive healing and peace. Let us pray...

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord...*

Our prayers continue in silence...

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: “The days are surely coming,” says the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. I will put my law within them; I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

**People: Through the waters of our baptism, we are all forgiven children of God. Alleluia! Amen!**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

### \*HYMN #119 *(see bulletin)*

“Open My Eyes”

Clara H. Scott

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Where Shall I Go”

Arr.: Roger C. Wilson

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy, magnificent God, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, allow us to see you clearly in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

ANTHEM

“O, the Depth of the Love of God”

Melodie Tunney

SECOND READING:

John 9:1-41

SERMON

“Seeing What Really Matters”

Rev. Rick Douylliez

**\*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; 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 quick 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 #293** *(see bulletin)*

“Amazing Grace”

John Newton

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Leader: Let us go forth from this sacred gathering with new eyes to see God and each other more clearly.

People: **May the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Paeon”

George Blake

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(\*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God  
and in honor of April’s parents, **Ray & Lyn Fleming, for their 62nd Anniversary,**  
from Marty Mathis and family.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Laura Perry Johnson and Joan White**

Monday, March 16 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings (youth breakfast/study)

Monday, March 16 at 12:30 p.m. Cornerstones Meeting

Tuesday, March 17 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Tuesday, March 17 at 5:15 p.m. SESSION

Friday, March 20 from 5-7 p.m. CHURCH GAME NIGHT

Saturday, March 21 at 10:30 a.m. Cornerstones "Swamp Gravy" trip

Tuesday, March 24 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, March 26 at 8:30 a.m. Cornerstones Callaway trip

**Sunday, March 29 from 4-6 p.m. EGGVENT food, crafts, games for all ages**

Tuesday, March 31 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY (end of study)

**SPECIAL OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ON APRIL 5th, EASTER SUNDAY**

### LENT STUDY

Tuesday at 9 a.m., join us for the Lenten Bible study at Shalom Café to study *Why Did Jesus Have to Die?* by Adam Hamilton. (*Gather on the patio at Shalom this coming Tuesday.*) Contact Austin Pounds with questions or to order a printed copy of the book (also available on Kindle). Austin: [dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com).

### EGGVENT & COVERED DISH SUPPER on MARCH 29

Palm Sunday, March 29th, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., we will be hosting a time of food, fun games and crafts for all ages. The church will provide fried chicken, slaw and baked beans. Members are encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the chicken. Please RSVP to Austin at [dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com).

### PRESBYTERY MISSION TRIP TO WESTERN NC: APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2026

A joint mission trip with Savannah Presbytery has been scheduled to provide Hurricane Helene related relief in and around Canton, North Carolina. Up to 20 volunteers are needed to perform a variety of services, from group support and transportation to clean-up, repairs and new construction under local guidance. The service week will \$20 per person April 26-May 2, plus meals. Interested individuals can get more information or a volunteer application from Tom McFarland at [mcfarlandthomasr@hotmail.com](mailto:mcfarlandthomasr@hotmail.com) or by calling him at 229-942-0224. *Donations to assist with trip expenses can be made at on our online giving link at [www.flintriverpresbytery.org](http://www.flintriverpresbytery.org). Please note that your donation is for disaster relief and note in the memo that this is for the April NC mission trip.*

### WATCH SUPPER

**RESERVATIONS: 229-985-3158 or [firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com)**

***In March we will be featuring the recipes from "PASS THE PLATE,"***

***and we have copies of the cookbook in the office that you can purchase for \$25.***

### WATCH MENU March 18:

**Regular & Children:** Hamburger Stroganoff (Recipe by Laura Hall, page 203) with Garlic Knots, Peas & Carrots, Salad Bar

**Diet:** Baked Chicken & Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar

**Dessert:** Pistachio Cake or Apple Cobbler with Ice Cream