

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Cross of Jesus”

Setting: Charles Callahan

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Frances Bius, Liturgist

Leader: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

People: As we continue on our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

Leader: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Leader: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

People: As we journey together on our path to faithfulness, may we be led by Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

*HYMN #56 (see bulletin)

“This is My Father’s World”

Babcock/Sheppard

*CALL TO CONFESSION

As we wander through the wilderness of Lent, we come closer and closer to confronting human sin, both our own sin and our collective sin. It is with honesty about how we have hurt others, and hurt ourselves, that we can move closer to the healing that God wills for us. Confession allows us to exercise such honesty, knowing that the God who hears us is the God who already loves us. Let us pray together...

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious and merciful God, we confess to you our reluctance and resistance to enter the wilderness places where we are confronted with our true selves. The places where we are tempted to put worldly values before our desire for you, and when our hunger for power and wealth is greater than our hunger for seeking and doing your will. Forgive us Lord, when we are tempted to use the gifts you give us, to benefit ourselves at the expense of serving others, when we are tempted to use sensational means to increase people’s faith, rather than being guided by the humility of Christ. Hear our confession, O God, even now in these moments of silence...

our prayers continue in silence...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes who was raised, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us.

People: We will believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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 #438 (see bulletin)

“Seek Ye First”

Karen Lafferty

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

From the dust of the earth, God made our mortal bodies, and with God's breath, life was instilled in us. There is nothing that we have that is not a gift from God. Remembering all of God's manifold blessings, let us worship God with our tithes and our offerings.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Windham"

Setting: Bernard Wayne Sanders

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy God, from abundance upon abundance, you have said that we may freely take and freely share. As we return to you what is already your own, we ask that you bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Genesis 3:1-10

ANTHEM

"Grace"

Mark Hayes

SECOND READING:

Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON

"A Tale of Two Temptations: Why Lent is About Resistance"

Austin Pounds

***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 #412** (see bulletin)

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Scriven/Converse

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Beloved friends, by our endurance, may we gain character, and may the character Christ has given us carry us to abundant hope, that as we know Christ, we might make him known.

People: **And as we go, may the love, grace and communion of our triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, go before us to show us the way. Amen!**

***POSTLUDE**

"Laudate Deum"

Alma F. Baumgardner

(* *We stand as we are able*)

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
and in memory of "Tiny" Edwynna McClung,
From Norma Staton and Susan Rogers.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Laura Perry Johnson and Joan White

TODAY, Sunday, March 8 from NOON til 2 p.m. OUR TIME (fun time for kids, with food and LEGOs)

Monday, March 9 at 10 a.m. Christian Service

Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. PW Evening Circle

Tuesday, March 10 at 9 a.m. LENT STUDY

Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. PW Morning Circle

Wednesday, March 11 at 1 p.m. Finance Meeting

Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, March 12 at 11 a.m. Cornerstones Lunch on the Road

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR EGGVENT

From 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., March 29, Palm Sunday, 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.

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 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. 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

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.

MENU Wednesday, March 11:

Regular & Diet: Low Country Boil (Recipe by Barbara Vereen, page 244), plus Salad Bar

Children: Pigs in a blanket & Chips

Dessert: Cheese and Feed Cheesecake (Recipe by Beth Sheahan, page 152) Cookies & Ice Cream