



SUNDAY, FEB. 22, 2026, 9 A.M.

First Sunday in Lent

This worship experience will be livestreamed and recorded.

Prelude	Nearer, My God, To Thee Lowell Mason, arr. Steven Sharp Nelson	Cello Ensemble
Welcome		Pastor Daniel Cochran
Introit	Sonata No. 1 in G major, BWV 1027 IV. Allegro moderato Johann S. Bach	
Opening Prayer		Christy Grace
Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance		
*Passing of the Peace		
*Opening Hymn	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	Hymnal 103
Scripture Readings	Exodus 13:20-22, *John 8:12-20	Cindi Copeland
*Magnificat		Words on Screens
Children's Time		Carey Williams Bebar
Reflecting on the Word	I Am: The Light of the World	Pastor Daniel Cochran
*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.		(continued)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to:

John-Michel and Kate Bilezikian on the birth of their daughter, Madeline Maria, on Feb. 13. Grandparents are John-Marc and Jane Bilezikian.

This morning, Sun., Feb. 22, at Gary Church:

- **In-Person Worship:** 9 and 11:11 a.m. Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available by asking an usher. Livestream and recorded worship are available at garychurch.org.
- **Altar flowers are given:** In celebration of the birth of Madeline Maria on Feb. 13, granddaughter of John-Marc and Jane Bilezikian and daughter of John-Michel and Kate Bilezikian.
- **The God We Can Know:** 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room. This study will build on Rob Fuquay's *The God We Can Know*, aligning with our Lenten preaching series exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. Books are available for \$10, but reading is not required to attend the class.
- **Special Blend Fellowship:** 10 a.m., Commons. The Green Team invites you to bring your own small reusable cup with a lid.

Gary Knitters provide prayer squares: This year for Lent, the Gary Knitters knit prayer squares for the entire congregation. Take a square from the basket in the Commons. Hold it in your hands when you pray, and know that it was knit with love. Feel the warmth and texture of the fiber. Trace the cross formed by some stitches. Enjoy this gift.

New songs at 11:11 a.m.: As we enter into the Lenten season and series about the "I Am" statements of Jesus, we will be learning some new songs at the 11:11 a.m. service, including "[He Is](#)" and "[Way Maker](#)." Listen to the recordings on YouTube for a sneak preview. You can also access Collective Joy's playlist at garychurch.org/ministries/music.

Dream of spring! Plants with a Purpose, a fundraiser for Gary's ministries, is now taking orders for Sat., May 2 delivery. Order by Sun., Mar. 15 at garychurch.org, or pick up a paper form in the Commons.

New Men's Bible Study: Tues., Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m., Anderson Room, led by Steve Novy. In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, author Tom Berlin uses storytelling and scriptures to connect participants to the experiences of individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Books will be available in the Commons.

Semimonthly men's breakfast: Second and third Saturdays of the month, 7:30 a.m., Egg'lectic Cafe, 145 N. Hale St., Wheaton. All men are invited. RSVP at garychurch.org.

Movie and Panel Discussion: Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Activity Center. Advocates 4 Justice, a grassroots collective dedicated to empowering our communities, presents *No Other Lands*. Nominated for Best Documentary, this movie shows the alliance between a Palestinian activist and an Israeli journalist. A panel discussion will follow the viewing.

Camp Gary: Fri., Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Gary. Looking for something fun for your kids to do on their day off from school? Kids will spend the morning playing, crafting, snacking, and hanging out with friends. And if you need it, you'll have access to a quiet workspace stocked with coffee and donuts. Registration is open to the public for preschool 3s-5th grade at garychurch.org.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

Fitness Class: Sat., Feb. 28, 9:30-10 a.m., Activity Center, led by David Holek, certified personal trainer. In this 30-minute bodyweight fitness class, exercises can be modified for all abilities, fitness levels and ages. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle. Register at garychurch.org.

2026 Prairie Central Spring Lay Academy: Sundays, Mar. 1-22, 2-5 p.m., Schaumburg's Our Saviour's UMC. Register by today, Sun., Feb. 22 at garychurch.org.

Cultivating a Resilient Faith in a Turbulent World: Wednesdays, Mar. 4-Apr. 1, 7 p.m., on Zoom, led by Pastor Mary Zajac. Join this Lenten study over Zoom to learn spiritual practices that can serve as our guide-rope through turbulent times. No book needed. Participants will be asked to stay current with the news and engage in a practice during the week. Register at garychurch.org.

Creative Arts Open Studio Class: Sat., Mar. 7, 10-11:30 a.m., Youth Rooms. Design and create your own project in a welcoming, inspiring environment. A variety of materials will be provided, or you can bring your own. Your masterpiece could be featured in our Art Gallery this June. Suggested donation: \$5 for materials. Register at garychurch.org.

Sign up for Chili Cookoff and Auction: Sun., Mar. 15, 5 p.m., Commons (after the musical). Do you think your soup or chili has what it takes to win the *Golden Ladle* trophy or have an item or service to donate? Register by Sun., Mar. 1., at garychurch.org. If you have any questions, contact Dan Lee (dlee@garychurch.org).

Fired Up musical / Chili Cookoff and Auction: Sun., Mar. 15, 4 p.m., Activity Center (musical), 5 p.m., Commons (cookoff and auction). Enjoy the musical and then eat some yummy soups and chilis. Bid on auction items and vote for your favorite soup and chili. Proceeds support this summer's high school mission trip.

Be alert for scammers: If you receive a text or email from someone claiming to be a staff member, be sure it's coming from their email address or phone number before responding.

Flowers for altar: If you'd like to give flowers on a Sunday, fill out the form on the registrations page at garychurch.org, or contact the Church Office (office@garychurch.org). Cost: \$35.



At Gary Church, our mission through Christ is to grow in joyful faith and serve all in love.
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