

Welcome

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church! If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME. If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK. Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.**PRELUDE**When I Survey the Wondrous CrossUndeen/Opel jeepse #WL 600024.16

Hudson/OneLicense #WL600034-16

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font. We gather for worship this Ash Wednesday evening. Blessed be the holy Trinity, \ddagger one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. *Amen.*

We gather for worship,

all who wander in the wilderness looking for bread.

We have wandered through the wilderness,

but we cannot live by bread alone.

Gather for worship to be satisfied by the bread of life, which nourishes and makes us whole.

Through the Spirit, the words, and the life of Christ, we are fed by the bread of life.

Come, let us worship and remember: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

> *Yet even in dust, we are beloved. We worship the One who leads us, feeds us, and calls us to repentance.*

Hymn

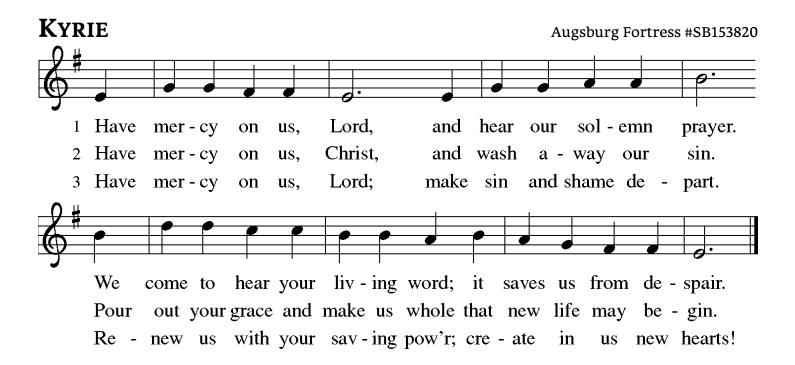
Be Thou My Vision

Irish Traditional/OneLicense #227079



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *And also with you.*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray.

God of dust and wilderness, you meet us in barren places, where hunger consumes and temptation calls. In our wandering, you offer the bread of life; in our weakness, your Spirit sustains us. As we gather this Ash Wednesday, remind us of our fragile beginnings and humble end: We are dust, yet we are beloved. Turn our hearts toward repentance so we may embrace your mercy and walk in your ways. Renew us, nourish us, and lead us through the wilderness. Through Jesus, who faced temptation and chose to persevere, we pray. *Amen. We sit.*

THE WORD

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-17

Read responsively.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart,

O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²*Restore to me the joy of your salvation*

and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

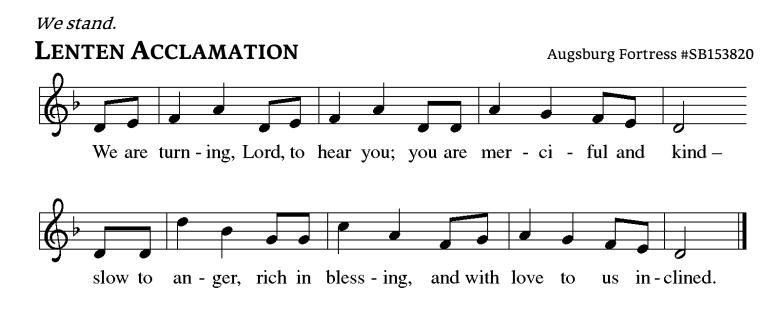
A reading from 2nd Corinthians.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

7

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ. We sit.*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation. Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

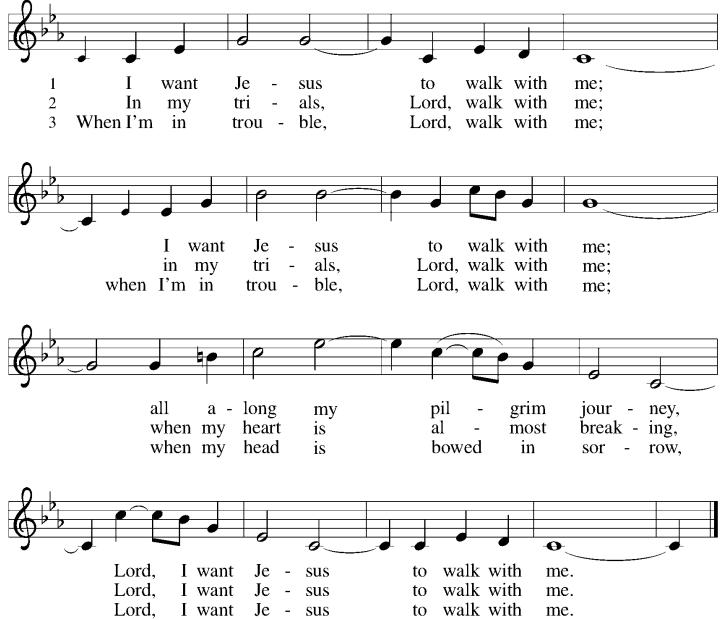
Sermon

not by bread alone

We remain seated. **HYMN**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

African American Spiritual/OneLicense #657051007



We remain seated.

INVITATION TO LENT

On Ash Wednesday,

we pause to remember we were formed from dust the same dust that grows our wheat, roots our grasses, and feeds our livestock, and the same dust that feeds the world. Our bodies will eventually return to dust

and continue to nourish the planet,

fortifying the plants, sustaining animal life,

and passing through the cycles of life once again.

All of this is for the glory of the Creator,

who set these cycles in motion.

Remembering we are dust doesn't diminish our worth or cleanliness.

Rather, it affirms our integral, connected place

in this beautiful work of God's love.

We were made with love,

And when we die, God shall receive us with love.

May we pause to remember our mortality,

thank God for this precious life,

and reflect upon life's end

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us lay our burdens down and confess our sins to our God, who loves us unceasingly as we learn and grow.

Holy and perfect God, as creatures of dust, we confess we lack eternal perspective.

We confuse our hunger for righteousness and peace with worldly desires of power and wealth.

We confuse our hunger for friendship with shallow connections that deplete our souls.

We hunger for meaning and significance in this universe, yet we choose mind-numbing antidotes that never satisfy.

You are the source of meaning and significance, friendship and love, righteousness and peace.

We gather today to confess our need for you and step back onto the path of the bread of life once again.

Forgive us and set us right, once more. Amen.

We remain seated.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen.*

> *Please come forward to receive the ashes. After receiving the ashes, you my return to your pew for a time of prayer and reflection.*

"<u>Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.</u>"

Please pray silently in your pew until all have come forward and have returned to their pews.

We remain seated.

PRAYER

We pray together.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

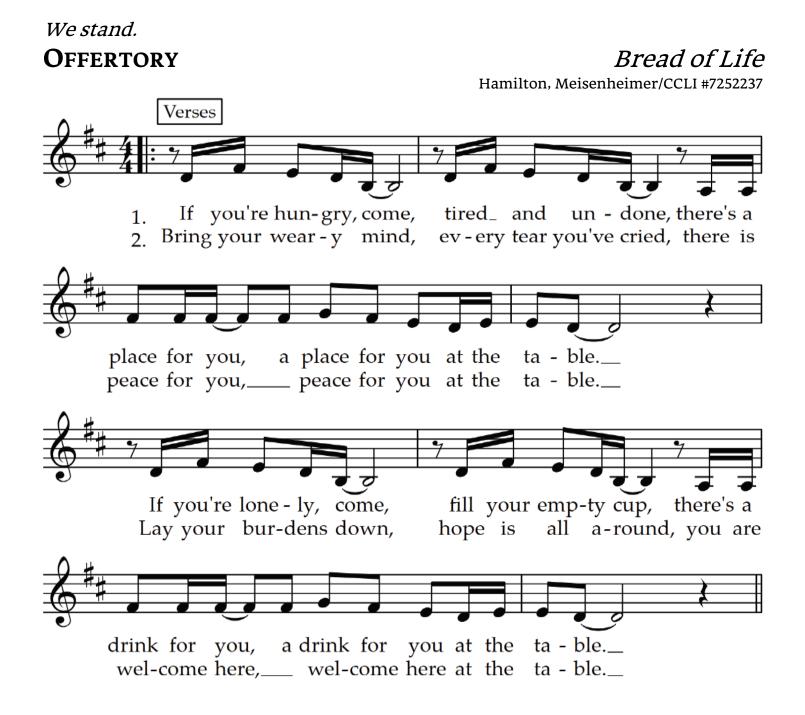
OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

OFFERING

The Old Rugged Cross

Bennard/Public Domain





OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

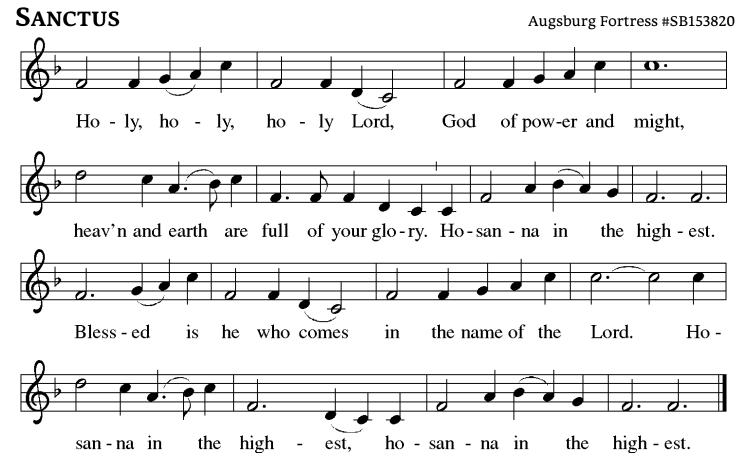
The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

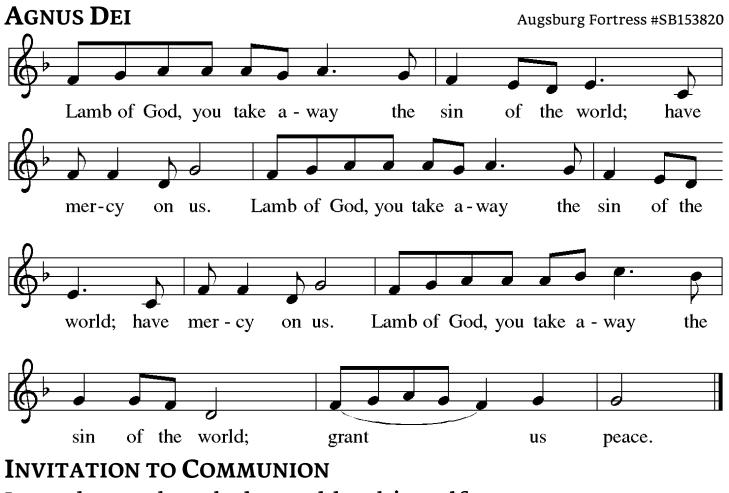
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then receive the wine or grape juice from the side in which you are seated. You may then return to your pews using the outside aisles. Please return to your pews for a time of prayer and meditation.

MUSIC

Let us Break Bread Together

African American Spiritual/OneLicense #21233

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, **‡** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. *Amen.*

Public Domain/Bradbury Just am. with - out one plea, but that thy blood was Ι 1 as am, though tossed a - bout Just Ι with man - y_a con - flict, 2 as Just Ι thou wilt re - ceive. wilt wel - come, par - don, 3 as am. Just thy love un-known has bro - ken as Ι am; ev - 'ry Δ for that bidd'st shed and thou come thee. me, me to man - y a doubt, fight - ings fears with - in, with - out, and cleanse, re - lieve; be - lieve, be cause thy prom ise Ι bar - rier down; a - lone. thine now to be thine, yea, 0 Lamb of God. Ι come, I come.

Just As I am, Without One Plea

DISMISSAL

Hymn

Go forth now, remembering you are dust,

that you shall return to dust,

and God goes with you through it all.

Carry this promise with you,

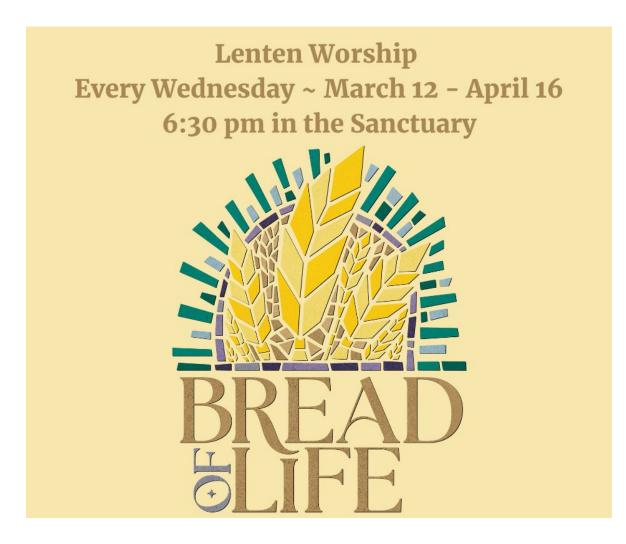
and may you live a life reflecting its truth. And now may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever. *Amen.*

We stand in silence and the candles are extinguished.

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary. SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE We follow the light of Christ into the world. We are God's people on a mission. We have gathered. We have been fed. Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of David Frame by Sheila Frame.





Youth Sunday March 16th

The youth will be leading worship and presenting the sermon message for us. They will also be the ushers, greeters, and communion assistants. Come and support our youth at Mt. Hermon. If

you are a youth and want to be involved in youth ministry. Please contact DJ Plummer at youth@WeAreMtHermon.com

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms* Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place* Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home* Georgianna Gray, *home* James Hallman, *Lakeside Place* Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care* Gloria Mathias, *home* Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living* Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place* Cyndi Thurman, *Sedgewood* Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Karly Addy Randy Clark Michelle Gantt Jim Whitaker Bonnie Bouknight Debbie Duval Joye Haygood Chris Carroll Debbie Fulmer Mary Frances Sease

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, friend of Danny Scott Stetson Cooper, grandson of Dan Cooper Paula Miller, friend of Brittany Allen Dawn McIlwain-Merck, friend of Robin Ellisor John Catoe, family of the Ellisors Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),

friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart Iris Wellborn, sister of Earl Sease Mrs. Cruz, teacher of Abbey Carroll Phil Dennis, brother of Lavonne Roof Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,

friends of Debra & Dave Butts Sandra Watson, aunt of Courtney Bucknam Sarah Harmon, friend of Courtney Bucknam Jaimie Womack, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price Cynthia Rabon, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price Blase Rhine,

grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight Cynthia Mallard,

friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan Jeslyn, friend of Scarlett Bryant Tom Shaul, friend of the Kinard Family Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper* Bryce McKelvey, *friend of Regan Gross* Max Schronce,

friend of the David & Scottie Marsh Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts* Hayes Wingard,

grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper Robbie Rector, friend Jennifer Miller Bill Geddings, father of Allison Swygert Jane Baxley, cousin of Michelle Gantt Mark King, coworker of Michelle Gantt Joyce Davis, grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik Will & Summer Satcher,

friend of Courtney Bucknam Dorothy Collins, friend of Ryan Price Lauren Addy, friend of Kathy Cooper and Metzes Jodi Harper, friend of Erin Rose Sam Lockridge, friend of Scottie Marsh Mary Duffie, mother of Alyson Price Thelma Moyer, mother of Diane Boulware Michael Tucker, friend of Michelle Gantt Kaiden Howell, friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik

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Serving In Worship

	March 09	March 16
Ushers	Frankie Jackson	Chanler Coppens
	Melanie Jackson	Cameron Bucknam
		Brayden Rutherford
Crucifer	Hayden Eargle	Spencer Price
Acolyte	Brayden Johnson	Bryson Johnson
Lector	Kirby Johnson	Sam Koon Zachary Head
Comm Assts	Hayden Eargle	Mackenzie Burns
	Frankie Jackson	Dylan Whitaker
	Melanie Jackson	Jacquelynn Hawlik
	Kirby Johnson	Connor Eargle Sam Koon
	Daryl Leigh Anthony	Aaron Head
Video	Arron Kinard	Blake Allen
Audio	Quentin Kinard	Breanna Metze
Nursery	Alyson Price	Cassie Swygert
	Brittany Allen	Laura Carroll
Flowers	OPEN	Sherwood Garrett

SERVING IN MARCH

<u>COUNCIL REP:</u> Mary Koon <u>ALTAR GUILD:</u> Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware <u>TABULATORS:</u> Ann Addy, Mary Frances Sease <u>USHERS:</u> Marion Leaphart, Dennis Thurman, Susan Busby



www.WeAreMtHermon.com 3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

WeAreMtHermon

Rev. Gina D. Metze, Pastor Svetlana Royal, Director of Music Roberta Smith. *Administrative Asst*

803.951.3784 *803.240.3143 cell* PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Music@WeAreMtHermon.com Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, President Sheila Eargle, Secretary Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, Financial Secretary

Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President Frank Bouknight, Treasurer Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, March 8th

- 9:00 am Food Pantry (Kinard Family)
- 6:00 pm Hebrews Dinner

Saturday, March 9th

- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:30 pm Sunday School
- 11:15 am Children's Choir
- 11:30 am Council Meets

Monday, March 10th

- 9:00 am Worship
- 10:30 pm Sunday School
- 11:15 am Children's Choir
- 6:30 pm Lutheran Men & Women will not meet

Tuesday, March 11th

6:30 pm LifeGroup @ The Jacksons