



PAXTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Messianic Secret by T. Denise Anderson | A Sanctified Art LLC

the good news is so good,
it catches us by surprise

February 22, 2026 | 10:30AM

WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

"Beautiful Savior"
"Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus"

-arr. D. Wood
-arr. D. Wood

WORSHIP PREPARATION

**In preparing for our worship together please quiet yourself
and allow God's Spirit to ready your heart, mind, and soul.**

During this time, we invite you to sign the **guest book**, pass it down your row and back again and note friends and guests worshipping next to you. Please also complete a **prayer request card** at this time if you have a joy or concern for which you would like special prayers during the service. The ushers will collect them during the first hymn.

GREETINGS AND NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

"My Jesus, I Love Thee

-arr. L. Riley

THE WORD GATHERS US

CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

***Manna in the desert, water turned into wine,
Love after loss, forgiveness after pain.***

The good news of the gospel is:

***Release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,
Mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.***

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

* HYMN – 624

"I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art"

* PRAYER OF PRAISE

O God, our King, Redeemer, and Savior, we gather today to praise you and worship you. You alone are our life and our strength. Your grace sustains us and your Spirit of power moves us to do your will in the world. Be with us in this time of worship, that in our prayers and in our praises we may glorify you and grow in faith and love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

* OUR RECOGNITION OF BROKENNESS

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our motion and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be messy and still yours? The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

* GOD'S ASSURANCE OF RECONCILIATION

* OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE – No. 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.***

* PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

THE WORD PROCLAIMS TO US

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 2:1-11

(NT 113)

ANTHEM "Set Me As a Seal"

-Rene Clausen

SECOND READING FROM THE GOSPELS Matthew 13:31-32

(NT 17)

SERMON

HYMN – 714 "God of the Fertile Fields"

THE WORD INVITES US

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation for the Offering

* Response of Praise – No. 606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

SCAN HERE
TO GIVE
VIRTUALLY



* Prayer of Dedication

OFFERTORY "Give Me Jesus"

-arr. M. Rinehart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(traditional p. 35)

THE WORD SENDS US

* HYMN – 165 "The Glory of These Forty Days"

* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

-arr. M. Burkhardt

The () indicates that those who are able may stand.

The words printed in ***bold face italics type*** are said by all.

Worship liturgy is adapted from prayers by Sarah Are Speed

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CCLI#2707192

Directing our worship today:

*Preacher, Pastor Margaret Poteet; Worship Assistant, Nancy Bingaman,
Conversation with Our Children, Nancy Lengler,
Director of Music, Sue Beckley; Organist, Jeanne Bruce*

PRAYER SQUARE

Please keep the following church members and friends in your prayers.

Members

Jim Brillinger, the Brillinger Family, Brenda and Ron Brinkley, Bruce Cavanaugh, family of Phyllis Finger, Fran Gilchrist, Shirley Grunden, Don Hoopes, Nancy Hutchison, Jo Jacoby, Jim Knight, Penny Knight, Nedra Maxwell, Joanne Miller, Gary Myers' family, Donna Powers, Elsie Williams, Dave Wion, Kathie Zimmerman

Friends

Dave, Attland, Atkins Family, Ray Baker, Benitez Family, Betty Conte, Dr. and Mrs. Kent Groff, Helen Heidlebaugh, Steve and Debbie Huzar, Mary Langley, Janet Neff, Betty Palaski, Carol Poteet

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer Square
please contact Janice at 717-418-1526 or momjakh@aol.com

SET ME AS A SEAL

RENE CLAUSEN

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.

NEWS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Sam Frank's 20th birthday on February 28th by Bob and Tara Frank.

LENTEN MEALS AND DEVOTIONAL SERIES Join us in the Fellowship Hall at Paxton Presbyterian Church at 6:00PM on Wednesday evenings February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 for our Lenten series. We'll share a meal and have a roundtable discussion using the Sanctified Art series, "Tell Me Something Good". Please let the office know if you would like a printed copy of the devotional booklet. You can scan the QR code for the digital version.

A NOTE ABOUT BULLETIN ART In "Messianic Secret" by T. Denise Anderson, the artist focuses on one of the servants who help Jesus perform the miracle of turning water into wine at the Cana wedding. She writes, "For me, it's particularly humorous that there's this huge, beautiful secret of which only a few people are aware. Those people include Jesus' mother and the select servants who help him pull off the miracle that inaugurates his ministry. Servants are normally meant to be inconspicuous, so I wanted to focus on the servant who goes to the chief steward with a cup full of what, as far as he's concerned, is water. ...I invite the viewer to focus on this servant and all his curiosity and expectation, and think of a time when you were surprised by something God did."



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The Session has called a meeting of the Congregation immediately following worship on Sunday, February 22, 2026. At the meeting, the congregation will receive the 2025 Annual Report and vote on proposed new Bylaws for the congregation.

THE SOUP SUNDAY Evangelism and Outreach will be hosting Soup Sunday after the Congregational Meeting today. Please come and enjoy some soup and fellowship! We provide 2 soups, including vegetarian and gluten free options, as well as mac and cheese for the children. If you are interested in making a soup for a crowd (you will be reimbursed) please contact Linette Burd (717-608-7845). See you there!

YOUTH SUNDAY Join our youth as they lead worship on Sunday, March 8th. The Good News is... Together the Impossible is Possible. Youth Sunday this year will focus on the Feeding of the 5,000. Jesus took a small child's lunch and multiplied it to feed thousands showing his deep concern for our physical needs but also his ability to mobilize a movement. Come hear our youth share Jesus' compassion for community and collective care.

BODY OF CHRIST STICKS TOGETHER Check out the bulletin board across from the office to join in the fun!

PPNS FUNDRAISER The nursery school will be running a fundraiser with Gertrude Hawk from February 6th to February 23rd. Orders will arrive the week of March 23rd, in time for Easter! Catalogs and order forms are available in the office.

PAXTON PRESBYTERIAN NURSERY SCHOOL Enrollment for the 2026/2027 school year opens in February. For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Nicole at nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org or 717-561-0510.

SEEKERS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is providing a welcoming, inspiring video-based presentation of THE CALL: The life and Message of the Apostle Paul. For the next six Sundays, we will be doing a video journey to the lands where the Apostle Paul traveled, preached, suffered, and triumphed. We will also be exploring why Paul is second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith. Each of the six lessons has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith that we can learn from to strengthen our own Christian faith.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS Lilys, tulips and hyacinths will be used again this year for the Easter flower tree in the chancel and to decorate the sanctuary. Anyone wishing to purchase a plant may do so by completing a form and returning it to the church office or placing it in the offering plate. Additional forms can be found outside the office. Each plant is \$10.00 with checks payable to Paxton Presbyterian Church accompanying each order. Please complete one order form for each plant purchased to simplify the printing of the dedication. The deadline to place an order is Sunday, March 22.

CHOCOLATE EGGS It's not too late to order your chocolate eggs! We will continue to take orders throughout the Lenten season. Order forms are available in the wall rack outside the office. All proceeds go to support our Rise Against Hunger event.

CALLING ON ALL EASTER BUNNY ASSISTANTS It's time to fill Easter eggs for Paxton's annual easter egg hunt! A plastic bin of empty eggs can be found in Coffee Central. Fill up a bag to take home and stuff with candies, stickers, erasers, and little prizes. Please no peanut products. Return filled eggs to Michelle's office by March 22. Thank you.

AS THE GOOD NEWS SAYS, EVERYONE IS FED.... Join us after Youth Sunday for lunch from the Food Truck, A Cheese Affair! You can order your food to go or please consider bringing it to fellowship hall to continue conversations about our collective good. We promise the Cheese Affair has food for all. Check out their menu on the bulletin board outside the office.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered their time and talents for the Room 101 refresh!

PALM SATURDAY WORKSHOP

Families are encouraged to join us as we share the Easter Faith with our children on Saturday, March 29th from 9:30-11:30am

Experience the last week of Jesus' earthly life
for and through the eyes of children.

March in a Palm Sunday parade
Make braided pretzels for Maundy Thursday
Make a cross for Good Friday
Prepare for Easter with an egg craft
Make a colorful bracelet to wear on Easter

Designed to nurture children with the special days of Holy Week, this morning will also assist adults in discovering words and ways to help children participate and worship during this sacred time.

BREAKFAST SNACKS PROVIDED

ALL AGES ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. BRING A FRIEND



February 22 – March 1

Sunday, February 22	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
	12:30 PM	Soup Sunday	Fellowship
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room
Monday, February 23	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Voices of the Valley	Great Room
Tuesday, February 24	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	11:45 AM	Staff Meeting	Room 202
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, February 25	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	9:30 AM	Sewing Circle	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Lenten Dinner	Fellowship Hall
	6:30 PM	Deacons	Room 101
Thursday, February 26	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:15 PM	Bell Choir	Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Lions Club	Fellowship Hall
	7:30 PM	Adult Choir	Choir Room
Friday, February 27	9:00 AM	PPNS Classes	PPNS
	6:00 PM	Nepali Youth Group	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 1	9:00 AM	Sunday School	Agape Park
	9:00 AM	Young Member Breakfast	Room 201
	10:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	Nepali Speaking Community Church	Great Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office is open to the public

9:00am – 1:00pm, Monday through Friday

If you need to visit the office or building at another time, please call the office.



Worship Volunteers

Paxton Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor	x105	Margaret Poteet	pastor@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Faith Formation	x104	Michelle Sheppard	michelle.sheppard@paxtonchurch.org
Director of Music		Susan Beckley	
Organist		Jeanne Bruce	
Director of Youth Music		Andrew Vinton	
Office Administrator	x101	Abby Spencer	office@paxtonchurch.org
Financial Office/Treasurer	x102	John Palmer	treasurer@paxtonchurch.org
Nursery School Director	x103	Nicole Evenhuis	nurseryschooldirector@paxtonchurch.org
Custodian		Mary Bowers	

Board of Deacons

Sally Appleby '28*	Sue McLain '26
Jim Bruce '26	Merideth Staudenmaier '28*, Secretary
Linette Burd '26, Moderator	Diana Robertson '28*, Financial Liason
Judy Frankford '27	Deb Trephan '27
Cheryl Holtzman '26	Brenda Vinton '27
Rich Lengler '28*	Bev Ziebell '27

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Leaders	Gary Myers	Jane Sanford
Stephen Ministers	Karen Cirillo	Karen Herrold
	Cheryl Holtzman	Janice Hutchison
	Annette Kilpatrick	Nancy Lengler
	Steve Miller	Kathy Woodbridge

For a confidential referral please contact a Stephen Leader.

Session *Chair

Margaret Poteet		Moderator
Kitti Taylor		Clerk of Session
Nancy Bingaman '28*		Christian Education
Cindy Cavanaugh '28*		Evangelism and Outreach
Nancy Lengler '26*		Budget and Finance
Judy Schmidt '27*		Mission
Gary Myers '26*		Nominating
Jay Kealey '26*	Gary Myers	Personnel
Nino Giambrone '27*	Bob Frank '28	Property Management
Craig Staudenmaier '28*	Geoffrey Vinton '27*	Stewardship
Sharon Webb '26*		Technology
Anita Laughery '27*	Bob Frank	Worship and Music

At Paxton Presbyterian Church, we believe that every person is a beloved child of God, made in God's image and worthy of love, dignity, and belonging. Rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a welcoming and affirming community for all people - no matter their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, mental or physical ability, or religious background.



I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art 624

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re-deem-er art,
 2 Thou art the King of mer-cy and of grace,
 3 Thou art the life, by which a-lone we live,
 4 Thou hast the true and per-fect gen-tle-ness;
 5 Our hope is in no oth-er save in thee;

my on-ly trust and Sav-ior of my heart,
 reign-ing om-ni-po-tent in ev-ery place:
 and all our sub-stance and our strength re-ceive;
 no harsh-ness hast thou and no bit-ter-ness.
 our faith is built up-on thy prom-ise free;

who pain didst un-der-go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be-ing sway;
 sus-tain us by thy faith and by thy power,
 O grant to us the grace we find in thee,
 Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 and give us strength in ev-ery try-ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per-fect u-ni-ty.
 that in thy strength we ev-er-more en-dure.

God of the Fertile Fields 714

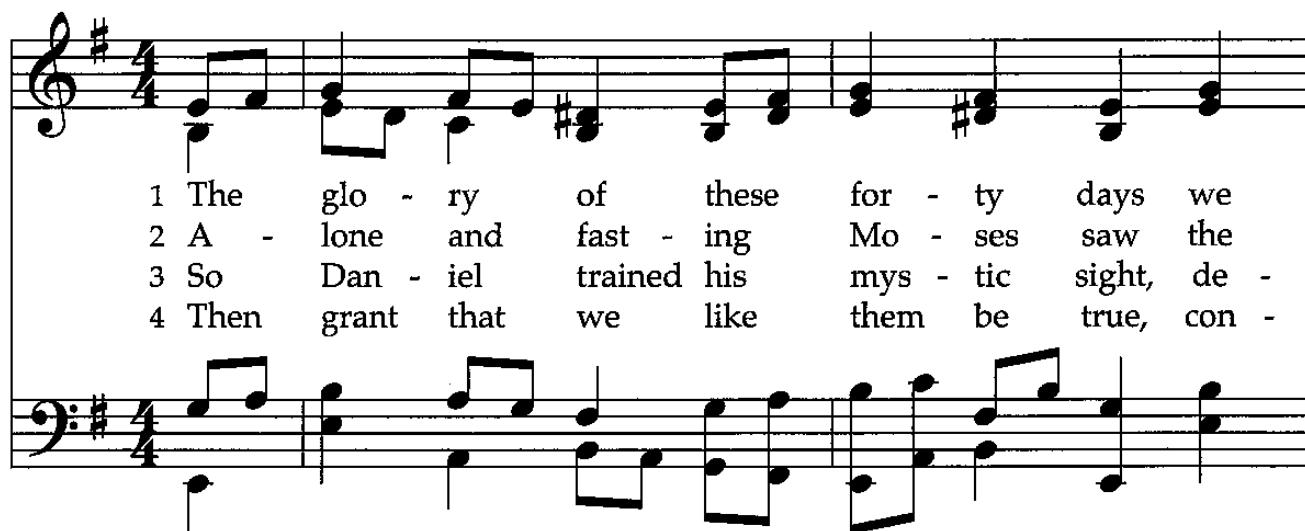
1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

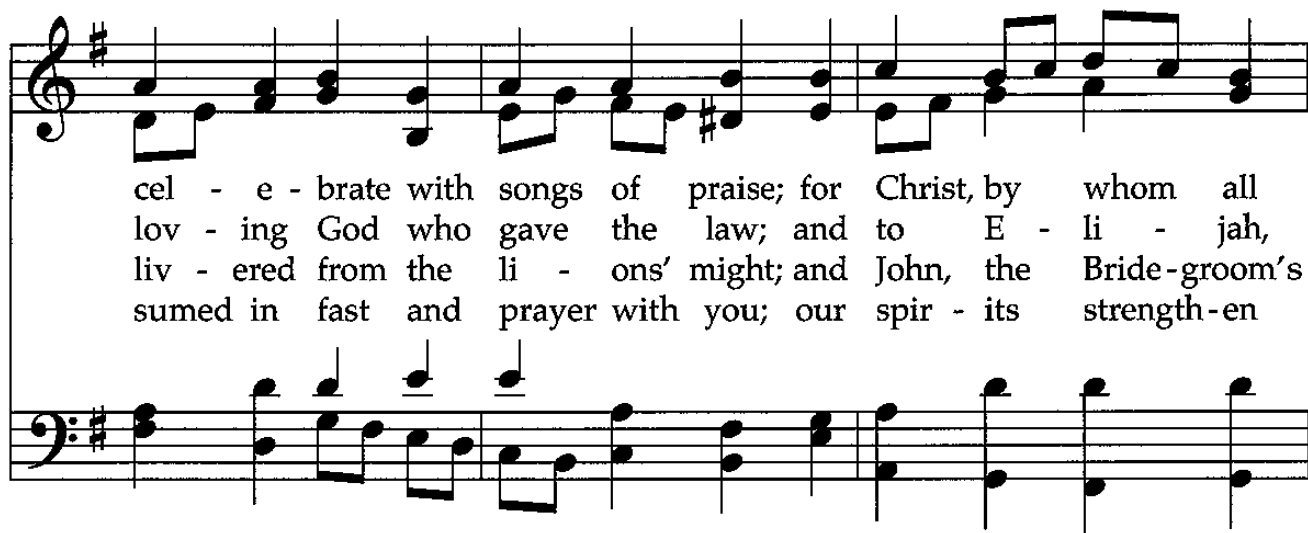
boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

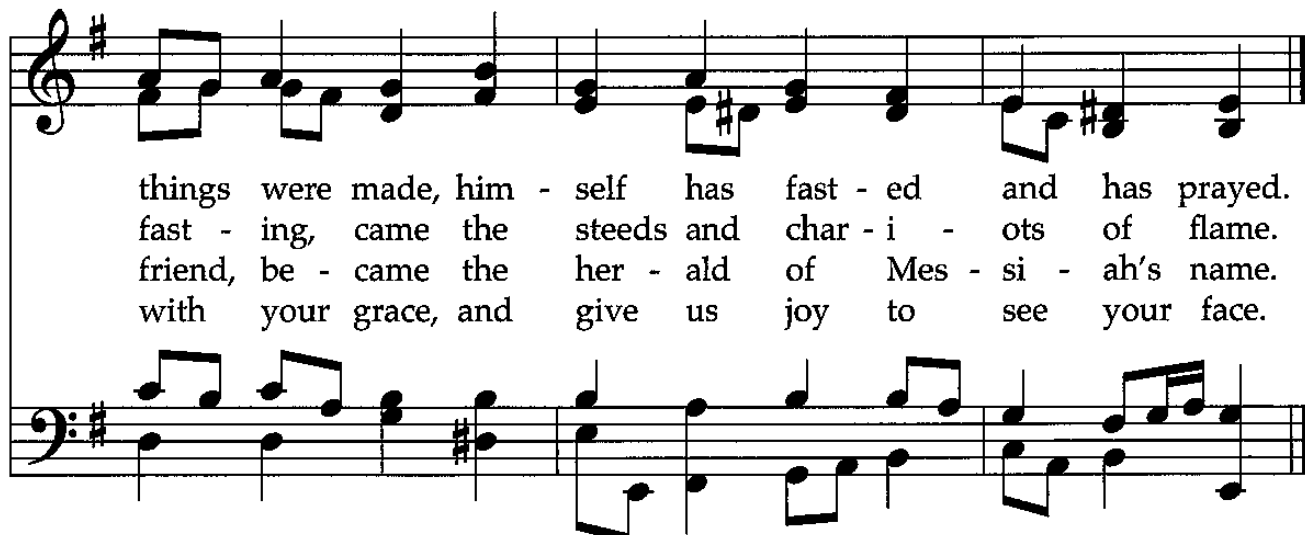
165 The Glory of These Forty Days



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -



cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' night; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.