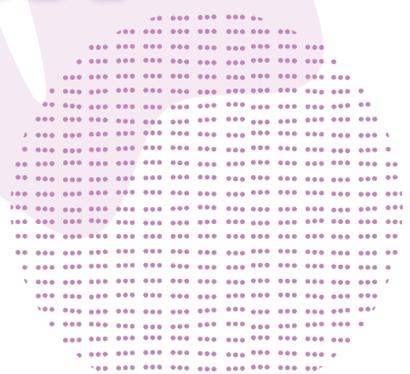
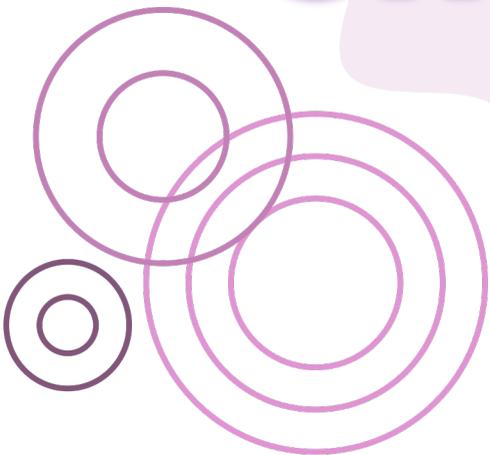


# Wonder Church



**March 1, 2026**

The 2nd Sunday in Lent

## **GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME**

### **Prelude**

### **GROUP REFLECTION**

Gather in the nave before the service. Father Bob will give you a Gospel-related question or topic to reflect upon and discuss with your fellow congregants.

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **Morning Has Broken**

*Please stand as you are able to sing. All are invited to play musical instruments.*

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day.

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.

### **THE COLLECT**

*Remain standing. We say the words together.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:  
Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways,  
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith  
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth  
of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son;  
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **THE DECALOGUE**

Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

## **PSALM**

## **Psalm 121**

*The Psalm will be chanted by Kevin Anderson.*

*1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?*

*2 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.*

*3 He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.*

*4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;*

*5 The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,*

*6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

*7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.*

*8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

## **John 3:1-17**

*Remain standing as you are able.*

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come

from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Gospel Discussion and Homily**

**Rev. Bob Farrow**

## **THE CREED**

*Please stand as you are able. We say the words in bold together.*

We believe in God, **our Father in heaven.**

We believe in God, **who made the world.**

We believe in God, **who gives us life and helps us grow.**

We believe in Jesus, **the son of God and the son of Mary.**

We believe in Jesus, **who shows us that God is love.**

We believe in Jesus, **who lived and died for us.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us love others.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who makes us holy.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **who helps us to know God.**

We are God's family, **the church.**

We are God's family, **forgiven through Jesus Christ.**

We are God's family, **at home with God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

## **PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD**

*(Prayers of the People from Episcopal Relief and Development - Intergenerational Prayers for 1000 Days of Love)*

*The people stand or kneel as they are able.*

Let us pray for the life of the world.

For our loved ones: Those whom we know and hold in our hearts,  
and all of your children who are unknown to us but always known to you.

Help us keep the needs of all in our prayers.

Bond us through your love and inspire us to action alongside the voiceless.

**God of love, Receive our prayer.**

For those who lead us: Give the leaders of our nations, towns, communities,  
and homes wisdom to serve people of all ages in love and peace.

Give us all the language and intention to share your love in the world.

**God who guides us, Receive our prayer.**

For the sick and poor: We pray for access that meets the needs of those who do not have enough. For nutritious food, housing, loving relationships, and all of the things that help us to thrive.

**God of the vulnerable, Receive our prayer.**

For ourselves: Thanksgiving for play, for music that moves us and all of the good things you bless us with.

Inspire us to dwell in the stories of others and respond to the needs of our neighbors as you have taught us.

**God who walks with us, Receive our prayer.**

For those who need our special prayers: Edward, Michelle, Katherine, April, Emmie, Christine, Hudson, and Kenny and his family, and all those who are in need of your grace and strength to endure pain, illness, or grief.

**God who heals, Receive our prayer.**

**Closing Collect:** God, we thank you for always being with us. Open and transform our hearts that we might connect more deeply with the needs of others and be moved to be your love and care in the world. Help us to keep courage as we learn, share, and give. **Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

**Most merciful God,  
We confess that we have sinned against you  
In thought, word, and deed.  
Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

## **EXCHANGE THE PEACE**

*All stand for the peace.*

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**March Birthdays:** Ansley Butzon, Shelley Butzon, Ryder Hughes, Beth Brown, Carleen Frokjer, Dave Halmrast, Ella Hughes

## **OFFERTORY**

*It's the first Sunday of the month! All loose offerings will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. One of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people is by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities - and the need has been great this winter; the fund is very low at the moment!*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

## **To God be the glory**

1 To God be the glory, great things He hath done,  
so loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain:*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

[Refrain]

3 Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

### **The Presentation**

*We will sing the Doxology as we make our way forward to surround the altar for the Eucharistic Prayer and the Ushers bring up the offering baskets. Stand two deep in a semi-circle as you are able - or remain seated until communion .*

### **The Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### **The Eucharistic Prayer - Adapted Prayer A**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People. And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Father, Creator of all.  
You made everything and you made us. You called us to new life in Jesus.

And so we praise you, singing with the angels, and the saints, and all of heaven:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy Father, you love us so much, you made us to be with you; and even when we all turned away from you and your love, you came toward us. You sent Jesus, your Son, who became human, like us. Jesus said such amazing things and did such wonderful things, that people began to follow him. He turned us back to you.

On the night before Jesus died on the cross, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Then he lifted up the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them, and said, "Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

So, let's celebrate the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy Spirit, make these gifts holy, to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and never-ending life in him. Make us holy too, so we can receive the bread and wine and live in peace.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, God, now and for ever.

**AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **BREAK THE BREAD**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Performed by Kevin Anderson*

**I'd rather have Jesus**

## **SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.

*All people are invited to receive Communion. Extend two hands if you wish to receive the bread and the wine; one hand if you want bread only. If you do not wish to receive, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. The clergy will stand by the first pews and you can make your way to them to receive communion and then return to your pews.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Standing or kneeling.*

Loving God,  
**we give you thanks for feeding us with spiritual food,**

the bread of life and cup of salvation,

**Christ's Body and Blood.**

Now send us forth a people

**forgiven, healed, renewed;**

that we may share your love and joy

**and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.**

**BLESSING**

*Please stand for the blessing.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

**How firm a foundation**

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

## **DISMISSAL**

Reader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**Please join us for First Sunday Brunch in the Parish Hall.**

*St. Nicholas' mission is to actively share Christ's love for all people.*

*Our vision is to strive to be a welcoming community who worships a caring and merciful God, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.*

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## IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Your prayers are asked for Michelle Moody, Edward Martin, Katherine Johnson, April Moore, Kellie Dixon, Emmie Brand, Christine Risdon, Hudson Garrett, and Kenny Hall and his family. Continued prayers and loving thoughts for our beloved homebound congregants: Mike Sawyer and Liz Dixon.

We pray for wisdom for those in authority, for guidance for those who feel called to action, and for safety and peace for those who feel fear in these times. We continue to pray for all those in need within our community and those in the world who have suffered due to war and natural disaster.

## VESTRY

Drucye Cox, *Senior Warden*  
Linda Pace, *Junior Warden*  
Sheri Cody, Kathy McMurtry,  
and Steve Morse  
Alex Garrett, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Jim Gilliam, *Treasurer*

## MINISTERS THIS WEEK

Lector: Alex Garrett  
Usher: Alex Garrett and Jim Gilliam  
Virtual Ministers: Katherine Johnson  
Eucharistic Minister: Drucye Cox  
Crucifer: Martha Dimon  
Flowers: Barbara Bradley

## UPCOMING IN THE PARISH

**TODAY:** First Sunday Brunch after the service

Free Schwob Faculty Concert at Zion 4:00 p.m.

MAR 4: St. Nicholas Book Club after Evening Prayer

MAR 8: Visit from the Bishop & Confirmations

**9:00 a.m. Bishop's Forum with congregation** and Vestry  
(not 9:30 as previously published) Please plan to attend!

MAR 18: Cookies, Crafts, & Conversation 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

MAR 21: Afternoon Tea Fundraiser 2:00 p.m.

**The 2026 Hunger Walk** is Sunday, March 15th. The Episcopal Community Foundation is one of the five partners in this annual event; monies they receive are then distributed throughout our Diocese in the form of grants to be used for programs to alleviate hunger. Last year ECF gave BackSnacks a \$30,000 grant for capital improvements, so the money does come back to our area! Sheri Cody is willing to register you after church services in February, just like she did last year.

You do not have to walk. You can register or give a donation without walking. Those who would like to walk will take a walk in our area versus going to Atlanta for the walk. **Our goal is to raise \$500 to fight hunger.**

Our **Rector's Discretionary Fund** - one of the ways we share the love of Christ for all people by assisting our Harris County neighbors with rent and utilities - had a lot of demands on it after this last cold snap. If you feel moved to donate a bit, it would be put to good use!

**St. Nicholas Book Club News:** After an exciting February meeting with local author Allen Levi, the Club selected for their March read *Evening Class*, a 1996 novel by the Irish author Maeve Binchy. See your newsletter for more. The Book Club next meets on March 4 after Evening Prayer.



Get ALL the news - use this QR code to go to the latest newsletter.