



*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts  
We carry light and love to the world.*

*April 2, 2025  
The Sense of Touch*



**Information for the hearing impaired:** Are you having difficulty hearing what is being said during our worship service? If so, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

***PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE PRIOR TO SERVICE.***

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please, stand.*

## **GATHERING**

L: We are gathered in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## **LITANY**

*A Litany of Renewal & Purpose*

Every day is a day to be renewed... to become the people God created us to be.

**May we learn to recognize our true selves as we reflect on God's hope and intention for creation.**

God calls us to proclaim the gospel for the salvation of all humanity.

**May we seek to be the presence of Christ in the world without creating clubs that push people away.**

God calls us to shelter, nurture, and cultivate spiritual communion among all God's children.

**May we be a safe place for everyone to question, to know, to struggle, and to grow.**

God calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

**May we abandon entertainment for profound awareness;  
may we share our gifts and creativity in our expression;  
and may the table at which we gather always have room.**

God calls us to uphold the truth.

**May we faithfully struggle to understand truth, so that  
instead of being chained and imprisoned to it, we may be  
joyfully and completely set free by it.**

God calls us to be advocates for social justice.

**May everything that seeks to undermine God's love make  
us uncomfortable and passionately corrective.**

God calls us to be a visible manifestation of God's vision and  
hope for all creation.

**May we live as if we truly believe that; shining light in  
darkness...sprinkling salt on blandness... and celebrating  
the joy of life that we all share together.**

**Let it be so!**

*(Written by Rev. Scott Cervas, pastor at Meadowthorpe Presbyterian Church,  
Lexington, KY)*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

ELW 733

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by

morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

## OPENING PRAYER

God incarnate, **You have given us a sense of touch to experience the world You made with such creative diversity, and to give and receive care. Open our minds and our hearts to receive the gifts You have for us, and teach us to share these gifts with the world. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JEREMIAH**

**1:5-10**

Reader: Kathy Mullins

### **PSALM 6**

Reader: Kathy Mullins

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

**<sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.**

<sup>3</sup> My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord—how long?

**<sup>4</sup> Turn, O Lord, save my life; deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.**

<sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who can give you praise?

**<sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping.**

<sup>7</sup> My eyes waste away because of grief; they grow weak because of all my foes.

**<sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.

**<sup>10</sup> All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror; they shall turn back and in a moment be put to shame.**

*Please, stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
**Lenten Refrain**

*Return to the Lord*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**LUKE 8:43-48**

The holy gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*You may be seated.*

*Meditation*

*Please, stand.*

**HYMN**

*Abide with Me*

**ELW 629**

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Hear the words of challenge and comfort our Savior Christ says to all who follow him.

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it (Luke 9:23–24).

Come unto me, all who are tired of carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

So, all of you who repent of your sins, who love your neighbors, and intend to live a new life following the way of Jesus, come with faith and humble yourselves before the Lord.

*A Moment of Silence.*

Let us reverently confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Creator of all, You marvelously made us in your image; but we have corrupted ourselves and damaged your likeness by rejecting your love and hurting our neighbors. We have done wrong and neglected to do right. We are sincerely sorry and heartily repent of our sins. Cleanse us and forgive us by the love sacrifice of your Son; remake us and lead us by your Spirit, the Comforter. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Almighty God, whose steadfast love is as great as the heavens are high above the earth, remove your sins from you, as far as the east is from the west, strengthen your life in his kingdom and keep you upright to the last day; through Jesus Christ, our merciful high priest. **Amen.**

*(Adapted from the Eucharistic Service from the Anglican Church of Kenya.)*

*You may be seated.*

## **THE CREED**

We believe in God, **the Father Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth; Creator of all peoples and all cultures; Creator of all tongues and races.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, **God's Son, our Lord, God made flesh in a person for all humanity, God made flesh in an age for all the ages, God made flesh in one culture for all cultures, God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, **Through whom God incarnated in Jesus Christ makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures; Through whom, God creator of all that exists, Gives us power to become new creatures; Whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.**

We believe in the Church Universal **because it is a sign of God's Reign, whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues where all the colors paint a single landscape, where all tongues sing the same praise.**

We believe in the Reign of God, **the day of the Great Fiesta when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious**

rainbow, when all peoples will join in joyful banquet, when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

And because we believe, **we commit ourselves: to believe for those who do not believe, to love for those who do not love, to dream for those who do not dream, until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen.**

*Please, stand.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Grant, O Lord Jesus, that the ears which have heard the voice of your songs **may be closed to the voice of dispute**; that the eyes which have seen your great love **may also behold your blessed hope**; that the tongues which have sung your praise **may speak the truth in love**; that the feet which have walked in your courts **may walk in the region of light**; and that the bodies which have received your living body **may be restored in newness of life**. Glory to You for your inexpressible gift; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

God our tender Parent, God the crucified One, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

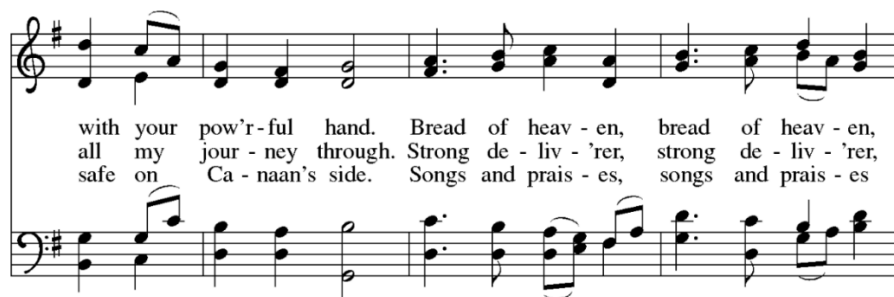
## SENDING HYMN *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* ELW 618



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

## *You may leave in silence.*

### Offering

*You may leave your offering in the basket on your way out.*

*You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page. You may also contribute using Venmo or Zelle if you have an account, or use the QR code below:*



### **WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Worship Leaders**

**Reader**

**Organist/Director of Music**

**Audio**

Pastor Giuseppe Mattei

Kathy Mullins

Donna Olsen

Art Alt

***Altar Flowers:*** *Please note that there are no flowers during Lent. Easter lilies are available to order until April 13. Please use the special envelopes in the narthex.*

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE  
A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD  
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.