



the good news is...

great love for
God & neighbor

March 1, 2026 – 10am

The Second Sunday in Lent

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

"Here I Am to Worship" by Tim Hughes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: Let us worship our compassionate God.

*Please rise in body or spirit

*HYMN #37

“Let All Things Now Living”



Written for an easy-to-sing folk melody familiar in England as well as Wales, this 20th-century North American text bears many resemblances to both Psalm 148 and the traditional canticle Benedicite, omnia opera Domini (Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord).

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
till shadows have vanished,
all fearfulness banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 By law God enforces,
the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



**Merciful God,
did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?
Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?
Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

(Silence for personal confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Faith family,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

HYMN #750

"Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"

Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.



Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours,
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours,
through God who loves us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

"Jesus Loves Me"

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

Matthew 25:35-40 (NRSVUE)

We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.

Thanks be to God.



SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Rest in the Lord" by Felix Mendelssohn (arr. Spencer)

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:36-50 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"The Good News is...Great Love for God and Neighbor"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

"O Love" by Elaine Hagenberg

*DOXOLOGY #606

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



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



THE LORD'S SUPPER

See the back page of the hymnal

At Covenant, we believe the Lord's Supper is for everyone. From newborns to our most mature, all are welcome at this table. The Presbyterian Church teaches, "The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding" (Book of Order, W-3.049).

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" by Richard Gillard

"How Great Is Our God" by Chris Tomlin, Jessie Reeves and Ed Cash

*HYMN #704

"To My Precious Lord"



This popular Korean praise and worship song speaks in the voice of the penitent woman who washes Christ's feet in Luke 7:36–50. It is a remarkable devotional text, both for inviting singers to identify with a woman's experience and for exploring neglected imagery.

Refrain:

To my precious Lord
I bring my flask of fragrant oil
kneeling down, I kiss his feet,
anoint them with the oil

1 Jesus, who for my sake
walked the road to Calvary,
with each step has marked
the imprint of his love for me.

Refrain

2 Jesus, who for my sake
had his feet nailed to the cross,
with his blood has washed and healed me,
paid the heavy cost.

Refrain

3 When in clouds of glory
you come back to earth again,
Jesus, with your love,
embrace and claim me as your friend.

Refrain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "To My Precious Lord"

Liturgy from this service is by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Matthew Phillips – Vocalist

Cora Kuyvenhoven – Cello

Martin Spencer – Guest Pianist & Tenor

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor



"LL Cool J"
by Nicolette Faison
Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT



Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.

Preacher from the Pew - Wednesday at 7pm. This Week: Cathy Byrem
Centering Prayer- Thursdays at 8:30am in the Lounge



The Ukrainian Cultural Association of Ohio is hosting an egg-decorating workshop for adults. Learn about the ancient art of wax batik and decorate an egg to take home.

\$5 - All Supplies Provided
[All proceeds to humanitarian medical aid for Ukraine]



Scan QR code or email Megan to RSVP!



Lenten Breakfast

Saturday, March 7 9:30AM



Bring food or monetary donations for SOS

RSVP after service today or call Estelle Scott 614-580-5760



Speaker: Benjamin Powers

PER CAPITA

\$46/ per person

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

One Great Hour of Sharing has been a catalyst for love for over 75 years. Every gift makes a difference in the life of the most vulnerable of God's people. We are the Church, together.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

3.29.26

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



PALM SUNDAY | MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5 10AM

PREACHER FROM THE PEW | WEDNESDAYS 7PM
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25



PREACHER Wednesdays 7pm FROM THE PEW

Cathy Byrem

Arthur Vazquez

Morgan James

Jude McLean

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 4, 2026
7 PM

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 11, 2026
7 PM

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 18, 2026
7 PM

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 25, 2026
7 PM



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