LENTEN EARLY MORNING PRAYER MARCH 11, 2026

6:30 – 6:40am: Praise Song

-During this time, we will learn a new praise song that invites us to open our hearts before God

Behold Our God – Sovereign Grace Music
https://youtu.be/Gqrli3Lkf58?si=EIt_PZMmcbNtbhiE
Songwriters: Jonathan Baird / Meghan Baird / Ryan Baird / Stephen Altrogge
Behold Our God (Who has held the oceans) lyrics © Sovereign Grace Worship, Sovereign Grace Praise

Who has held the oceans in his hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice
All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach, the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

Who has felt the nails upon his hands?
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

Behold our God, seated on his throne
Come, let us adore him
Behold our king, nothing can compare
Come, let us adore him

You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
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You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
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You will reign forever (let Your glory fill the Earth)
You will reign forever (let Your glory fill-)

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6:40 – 6:50am: Scripture Reading & Devotional

Today's reading comes from John 12:9-19.

From the anointing by Mary, Jesus moves from Bethany towards Jerusalem. The crowd who has learned of Jesus bringing back the dead to life is now gathering around Jesus and following after him.
When he reaches the city, the people start to gather palm branches to welcome Jesus. They call him King of Israel. And they treat him as one.

Imagine a victorious warrior, coming home. What kind of fanfare and parade is there?
Or imagine a king that coming to visit a city, what kind of preparations and pomp and circumstance is made?
Imagine, a military parade with calvary and infantry. And the victorious General-King riding in the finest horse at the place of honor, the crowds cheering and yelling praises.

This is the like the parade that welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. Only instead of a war-horse, Jesus rides in on a donkey, a symbol of peace. And instead of stories of victories won with bloodshed, Jesus comes with stories where he has given life.
He is praised with 'Hosanna', the one who saves.

This kind of parade, this kind of reception into the city, is the same as treason against the Roman empire. They are welcoming a new king. They are recognizing, worshipping, and hailing the King of Israel.
The religious authorities cannot contain their anxiety. It is not only their own power they can feel is slipping out of their hands, but now the entire country and its people will likely be suppressed by the iron soldiers of the Roman empire. And all because of this commotion caused by some uneducated carpenter who's seizing an opportunity during one of the most busiest festivals of the year.
The religious authorities are out for blood.

Following after Jesus will inevitably put us against the world. The values and the priorities that the world tries to teach us are not the values that Jesus teaches us. Jesus spoke of life from God. The world teaches life made my our own hands.
Jesus spoke of abiding and trusting in God. The world teaches safety and security taken from others and hoarded. Jesus demonstrated healing, forgiveness, and laying down one's life for another. The world teaches selfishness and self-centeredness as if they were the highest ideals.
It is true, if we will follow King Jesus, then we must abandon the worldly king and its deceptive lies.
But following Jesus is counter-intuitive. It takes work and practice. But by the power given to us through Jesus, the more we practice, the better we become at it. We can choose love over fear. We can choose trust over worry. We can choose rest over busy-ness. We can choose God over the world. We can choose life over death.

So may we practice surrendering to Jesus. Listening, choosing, trusting, worshipping. Let us abandon the deceptive lies of the world. Let us place Jesus as King over our lives. Let's welcome him as Hosanna, The One Who Saves!

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace all over the world. Pray for protection, for reconciliation, and for peace. Pray for God's people there, to be the light as they rescue and offer aid and relief. Let us pray for how we might support our brothers and sisters in restoring broken homes and lives.

Secondly, pray for Sharonville and Cincinnati. Let us pray for the gospel message of Jesus be boldly shared and let there be revival in this city. Let there be transformation brought about by the Holy Spirit. So that all may be called from death to life. And let hope shine in this city.

Thirdly, pray for our church to grow in influence in this community. That all who come here find healing and restoration. That when we go out to serve in our communities, we bring the love and grace as has been given to us in Jesus Christ.

Lastly, pray for ourselves as we practice surrendering to Jesus as our king. To turn over every decision we make, and every thought and perspective we have to Jesus and what Jesus taught us to do. That we would follow after Jesus speaking words of life and love as Jesus did.

7:10 – to whenever: Personal prayer time

-During this time, there will be gentle instrumental music that will play in the background and all are invited to stay as long as they wish in prayerful posture, lifting up everything into God's hands.