LENTEN EARLY MORNING PRAYER MARCH 9, 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

What a Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship
https://youtu.be/r5L6QlAH3L4
Words and Music by Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave

The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign

Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You have no rival
You have no equal
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6:40 – 6:50am: Scripture Reading & Devotional

Today's reading comes from John 11:38-57.

It's interesting to note, that by the time Jesus is going to raise Lazarus from the dead, after all of the faithful declarations of trust and faith, yet people still hesitate.
Martha just confessed that she believed Jesus was the resurrection and the life. She said she believed that in Jesus, everyone will live, even though they die.
Yet, when Jesus moves to actually remove the stone covering the tomb, Martha tries to stop him.
'It smells in there,' she explains. 'The body is already rotting,' she reasons. Her rational brain tells her there is no possible way Lazarus can come back to life. It's impossible.
Perhaps we are the same as Martha. We say we believe in Jesus who has the power to bring the dead to life. Yet, when it comes to actually revive that which we think is dead, we try to stop him.
Is there something that we think is simply impossible, even before God?

Because of this miracle that Jesus performed, the religious authorities now fully commit to putting Jesus to death. Ironically, the high priest declares that it is better for one man to die than for a whole nation to be destroyed. It seems that the high priest is talking about Jesus in a political sense. That the high priest feared the Roman government would continue to oppress the Jewish people and it be worse because of Jesus.
But we, the readers and those who believe in Jesus, know that what the high priest is saying is also spiritual. That Jesus is the Paschal Lamb, that is, the lamb sacrificed for the atoning of sins to turn away the wrath of God.
Not only does Jesus is the resurrection and the life, but Jesus is the one who lays down his life for us.
So that we might have life. So that we might be resurrected out of our death, freed from the chains of sin, made new from out of old ways of selfishness and fear.

What would it look like to live knowing that we are no longer bound to make the same mistakes? That we are no longer bound to live in fear?
What would it look like to be given a new life that we once thought was long dead?
Let us live in the amazing grace of resurrection and life, given through the precious sacrifice of Jesus.

6:50 – 7:10am: Prayer

First, pray for peace around the world. For the leaders of the world to stand up for what is right and rise to the call to save many lives. For the lives lost and their grieving families.

Secondly, pray for against injustice and tyranny in all forms in our country. That the strongholds of power be broken down. That God's people will rise up to stand with the poor and oppressed.

Thirdly, pray for our church. For the transitions we are going through. For renewed hope and passion for all that God has in store for us. For blessings to grow our church in all ways.

Lastly, pray for our hearts, minds, and spirits to believe Jesus the resurrection and the life. To remember that Jesus died for us so that we might be forgiven. Jesus then came back to life for us, so that we might have new life also.

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.