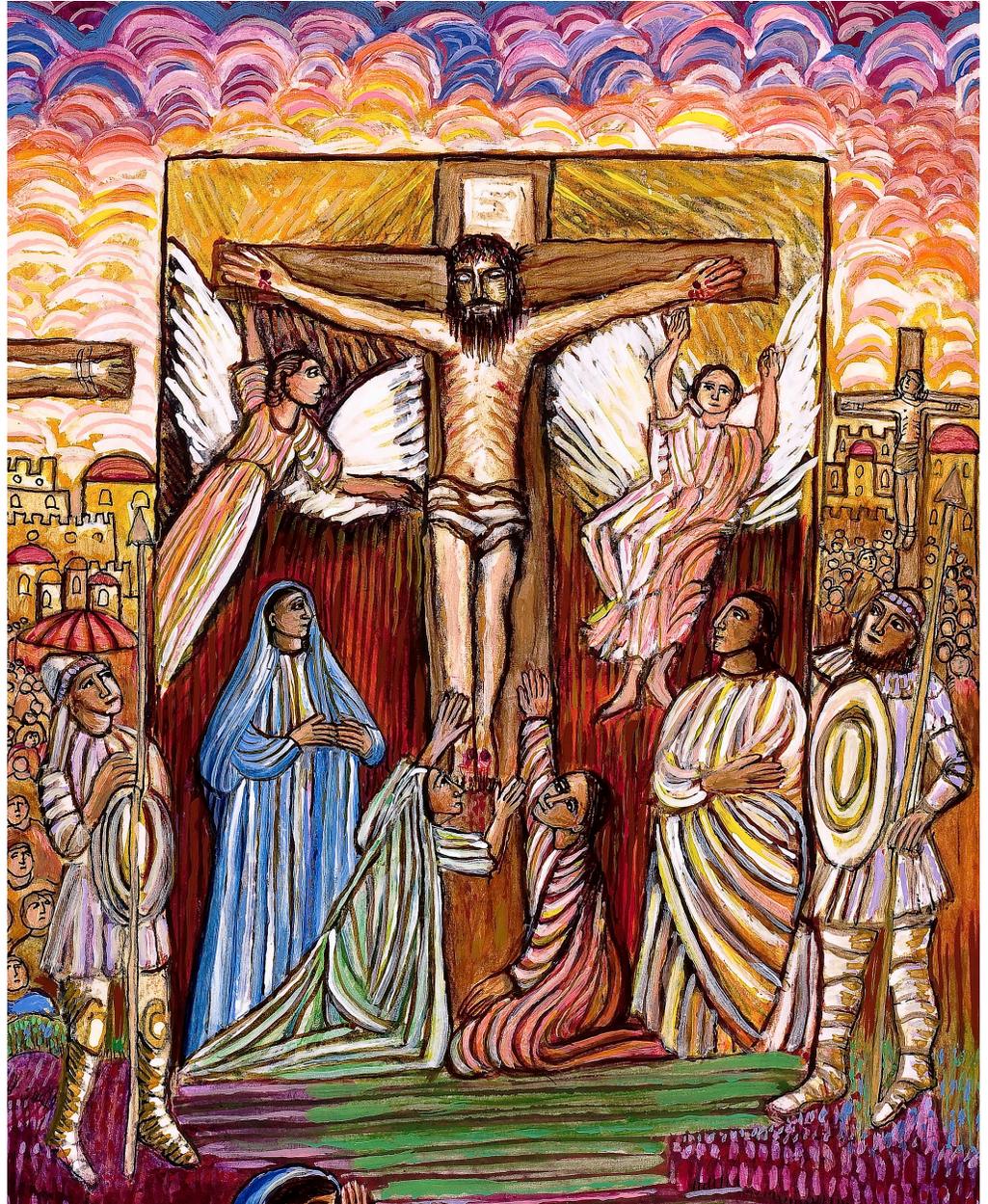


3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026



WORTHINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In Christ's love, we connect, serve, and transform

Worship Team

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves
Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice
Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Betsy Rice
Pastor for Member
Ministries

Russell Nagy
Director of Music Ministries

Nicholas Robison
Director for Youth
Ministries

Annie Barner
Coordinator for Children's
Ministries

Kim Anderson
Organist

*Visit our website for a
complete list of WPC staff.*

Sanctuary Flowers

*The flowers on the chancel
are given to the glory of God
by Scot & Kathryn Hindall in
honor of their wedding
anniversary.*

Serving Us Today

Ushers: Team B - Bob
Freed, Jordan Quickel,
captains; Pete Barnhart;
Dave Balsler; Carol Balsler;
Chris Campbell; Kathy
Campbell; JB Love; Susan
Love; Dave Wilson; Nancy
Wilson

Video: Bill Yost

Carillon: Connie Syron

In Christ's love, we...

CONNECT ♦ **SERVE** ♦ **TRANSFORM**

Welcome

Welcome to Worthington Presbyterian Church. This congregation has worshiped together in the Worthington community since 1805. We welcome all who seek faith, hope, and joy.

Visiting for the first time today? After the service, join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Children & Youth

Children and youth are invited to Sunday School after a brief children's message around 10:15AM. Nursery care begins at 9:45AM in the Nursery downstairs outside Fellowship Hall. You can pick your child or youth up in the following rooms after the service:

- Pre-K: Room 113
- K-2: Room 112
- 3-5: Room 111
- 6 - 8: Living Room
- Confirmation: Youth Room
- 9 - 12: Room 222 for a special breakfast

Accessibility

Accessible features of the building include:

- Handicap parking near east and west entrances
- Wheelchair ramp at the main entrance
- Elevator access
- Multiple accessible restrooms
- T-coil hearing capabilities for those with compatible hearing aids
- Listening devices for the hearing impaired available



Prayer Requests

Please write prayer requests on the pew prayer cards and place them in the offering plate.

Contact Us

Mon - Thurs: 8AM - 4PM; Fri: 8AM - 2PM

wpchurch@wpcnow.org | 614.885.5355 | wpcnow.org

Worthington Presbyterian Church
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

10:00 AM

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

** Please stand*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Tom Rice

Invitation to Mission & Discipleship *(Please sign & pass the Friendship Pads)*

Moment for Mission: *Easter Baskets*

Mitch and Debra Janklow

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Please stand and greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Feel free to give friendly waves or a hand over your heart.

CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

"A Lenten Poem"

Van Denman Thompson

Kim Anderson, organist

The music is a call to open one's spirit to God's presence in our midst.

OPENING SENTENCES *(From Child of Blessing)*

All may stretch out their hands as an expression of receptivity.

One: Come, you who are thirsty. ***(All repeat)***

Come, you who are weary. ***(All repeat)***

Come, you who are longing. ***(All repeat)***

Come to the well that never runs dry. ***(All repeat)***

Come and be filled by grace. ***(All repeat)***

Let us worship God! ***(All repeat)***

*** HYMN #436 "God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us"**

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Wellspring of life, you meet us with love, but we do not trust it. You offer living water, but we choose what does not satisfy. Forgive us. Quench our hearts and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

* Lenten Kyrie (#576)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy on us.

(repeat)

* Assurance of Pardon

* Lenten Response to Forgiveness (#434, v. 3)

Bring us, O Christ, to share

the fullness of your joy;

baptize us in the risen life

that death cannot destroy.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Nick Robison

Children & youth will attend Sunday School at 10:15AM after a brief children's message. See inside cover for locations.

High School youth are invited to a special breakfast this morning in Room 222.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elle Payne

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 17:1-7

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;

give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come;

let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,

if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;

my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips

I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths;

my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;

incline your ear to me; hear my words.

**Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.**

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Francis

Ed Harris

The Chancel Choir - Russell Nagy, Director

O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
Where there is despair, let me sow hope.

Where there is darkness, let there be light.
Where there is sadness, let there be joy.
O, Divine Master, grant that I seek
rather to comfort than to be comforted;
to understand than to be understood;
to love than to be loved.

O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. It
is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are now born to a new life.

O Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 18:12-27

Rev. Dr. Matt Reeves

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "**I am not.**" Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "**I am not.**" One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

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

SERMON

"Faults, Failures, and All"
Downward Glory
Third in a Six-Part Series

Pastor Matt

*** HYMN #440**

"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Betsy Rice

Sharing of Prayer Requests & Blessings

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

Offertory

"Jesus, With Us Abide"

James Southbridge

* Song of Dedication (#698)
*Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.*

* Dedication of Tithes & Offerings
Scan the QR code to give online or visit wpcnow.org/give



GOING IN GOD'S NAME

* **HYMN #432** “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Pastor Matt

POSTLUDE “Delight in the Lord”

Gregg Sewell

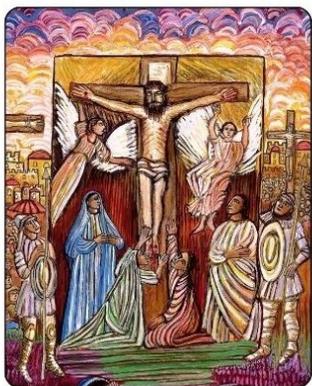
*Please remain seated during the postlude as it is the final “Amen” to our worship.
Those who need to leave before the end of the postlude are free to do so quietly.*

Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.

Lent comes from an Old English word meaning “spring.” It is the church’s season of preparation for celebrating Jesus’ resurrection and God’s renewal of all things. Our preaching series, **Downward Glory**, explores how Jesus reveals glory not through power or triumph, but through humility and service to the broken and overlooked. Catch up on sermons by scanning the QR code or visiting our YouTube channel.



ON THE COVER



Crucifixion 1 - Detail 2 © 2026 John August Swanson | Eyekons

“Based on a sketch I made in 1978 of El Greco's Crucifixion (1600), I further developed my drawing into a painting in 2011. It is a picture within a picture. I expanded the narrative to include greater crowds. I waited 24 years to return to my pencil drawing. I never felt I had the skill to portray this important scene. The work grew from many small stages. It was difficult to complete, as I kept adding colors and details.

A bright, turbulent sky shines down on Christ and the two other condemned men. The background branches and steps are saturated in dark purples and reds. Two angels surround Jesus. And, a worn staircase and grasses lead to a weeping figure. I wanted to create an image of those close to Christ, showing their great sorrow.”

To RSVP for an opportunity, scan the code at the bottom or visit wpcnow.org/links
Some sign-ups are located on the table outside the church office.

TODAY

Meeting Jesus at the Table — 9AM in Room 222: Lenten study exploring stories of Jesus sharing meals.

High School Breakfast — During 10AM service in Room 222: Breakfast, a short Bible study, and time to connect after the children's message.

Youth Group — 5-7PM in Youth Room: Continuing this year's theme: Do Not Fear!

THIS WEEK

Thomas Worthington H.S. Choir
Tues, March 10 at 7:30PM | Sanctuary

Thomas Worthington H.S. Orchestra
Wed., March 11 at 7PM | Sanctuary

Introduction to Meditation Class
Wed., March 11 at 7PM | Chapel

Soup Potluck
Wed., March 11 at 6:30PM | Chapel

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Vacation Bible School
June 1-5 | Mirolo Pavilion
Registration is open on our website.
Invite your friends and neighbors!

Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers
April 5 at 12:15PM | Front Lawn
Youth and adults needed to help make Easter morning joyful for children.
Contact Annie if you can help!

Keep up to date with youth events!
Add our Google Calendar to yours. Check your church email for instructions.

Children & Youth Lead Worship
Children and youth invited to help lead parts of worship (pastors will assist).
Scan the QR code to learn more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Per Capita Giving: We haven't forgotten about annual Per Capita giving. We're simply preparing a clearer explanation of what it is and why it matters. Look for more information later this spring.

Help Fund the Easter Lily Cross: Honor or remember loved ones through a gift (at least \$30) toward our traditional lily-filled cross and other Easter flowers. Forms are available outside the church office and in weekly emails.

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

Easter Basket Donations
Help bring joy to children in underserved communities. **Deadline March 29**

Fiesta: Montaña de Luz Gala
April 17 | 6:30PM at St. Charles Preparatory School in Bexley | Dinner, auctions, and updates from Honduras. Proceeds benefit the MdL children's home for youth affected by HIV/AIDS. Details and tickets at bit.ly/26fiesta.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mar 24 — TNT | 6PM

Apr 2 — Maundy Thursday | 7PM

Apr 3 — Good Friday | Noon & 7PM

Apr 5 — Easter Sunday | 7, 9 & 11AM

Apr 25 — Habitat Wall Build

Scan this code if you are looking for a sign-up form.

