

Order of Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music *Hymn Melodies* arr. Adam O'Boyle

Welcome

Prelude *The Strife is O'er* The Battle Done

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

But Jesus asks us: "Can you drink the cup that I drink?"

The cup of Jesus' own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope.

We may come here to be close to Jesus,

And Jesus asks us: "Can you be baptized with my baptism?"

Baptized into the reign of God, where the Spirit inspires all people.

We may come here for honor or comfort or respect,

But Jesus challenges us: "To become great, you must serve."

Why are we here?

To drink the cup of the fullness of life, to immerse ourselves in the struggle for justice and peace, to learn how to serve so that the world may be healed. Let us worship God!

***Hymn 357** *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLangoffan

Call to Prayer

Prayer for Forgiveness (Unison)

God of justice, these stories of injustice are so hard for us to read. We long for a different way, where truth triumphs and suffering is avoided. Yet we confess that we continue to let this story happen all around us. We too prefer power and position to justice. We too prioritize our own comfort over others' lives. We too look the other way when people are abused in our name. We too try to keep the peace by looking the other way. We too abdicate our responsibility and pass the buck.

Forgive us, O God. We have no excuses to make, only a plea for your transforming grace to be at work in us, right now. You are the One with power to change things, and to change us, so we pray to be made new today, in Jesus' name...

Assurance of God's Grace

Word and Wonder – A Time for Children

Scripture Lessons John 19:1-16a NT, p. 113

Sermon Passing the Buck Rev. Traci Loveman

***Hymn 773** *Heaven Shall Not Wait* Heaven Shall Not Wait

***Affirmation of Faith (Unison)** Philippians 2:5-11

We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

As we pray together the prayer Christ taught us:

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.

***Hymn 718** *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* Bourbon

*Charge and Benediction

***Postlude** All Hail the Power of Jesus Name arr. Mark Hayes

Worship Leader this week: Traci Loveman

No Worship Leader next week.

Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **Brenda Brazier**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember Brenda and her family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

The Elder on Call for March is Angie Wester. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-426-9564**.

What's Happening at Hope?

Easter Egg Hunt Donations: For our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, we are asking members of the congregation to donate plastic eggs and NON-CHOCOLATE candy to fill them. You can also donate items like stickers, stamps, or even coins. One of our Girl Scout troops will be stuffing the eggs for us. Please place donations in the "Hope's Helping Hands" box in the main entrance by TODAY.

Spring Work Day: NEXT Saturday, March 28, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, we will be having a church "work day" along with the Playschool to help get our building and grounds ready for Easter Sunday. There will be tasks accessible to all ages and abilities. Breakfast goodies and snacks will be provided. Please plan to join us as we care for the physical resources we have been given to accomplish our ministry.

Stations of the Cross Walk: On Good Friday, April 3, from noon until 1 p.m. we will participate in the annual Stations of the Cross Walk on the Aldridge Creek Greenway between the Mt. Gap Rd. and Hobbs Rd. access points. If you are able and willing to volunteer to represent one of the five stations we are responsible for (there's a script, and it's not long!), please contact the church office by Thursday, March 26.

Easter Flowers: We are taking orders for spring plants (hyacinths, tulips, hydrangeas) to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. Each plant is \$10. You can take your plant(s) home with you following the service on Easter Sunday or donate them to the church to be planted in our flower beds. The last day to order flowers is NEXT Sunday, March 29. Please use the sign up sheet located in the sanctuary to order.

Maundy Thursday Service Project: On Maundy Thursday (April 2), we will have a joint fellowship dinner and worship service with Faith Presbyterian Church at Hope, which will include packing bags for Shower Up, a local organization that provides portable showers to the unhoused. We are asking congregants to purchase trial-size men's deodorant, toothpaste, and/or shaving cream in sets of 10. The sign-up sheet is located in the sanctuary and items may be placed in the "Hopes Helping Hands" box inside the main entrance. Monetary contributions may be marked "Shower Up" and placed in the offering plate or submitted to the church office. All donations must be received by NEXT Sunday, March 29.

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All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

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The Days Are Surely Coming

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Heaven Shall Not Wait

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Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

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Prayer Concerns

Members:

Holly Lowe
Luanne Biles
Traci Loveman
Andy Young
Shelby Albert

Family:

Kelly Waldron (Christie Ashton)
Lys Howdle (Susan Terry)
Parker Lord (Candy & Bob Lord)
Marcia Loveman (Peter Loveman)
Fred Jones (Bill Jones)

Friends:

Luke & Crystal Allen (Joanna Sterling-Clutts)
Margaret Bibb (Christie Ashton)
Barbara Dennis
Emily Loeb (Debbie Adsit)
Suzanne Minga (Traci Loveman)
Dr. Jon Wongsurawat (Traci

Those serving in our military

Those affected by natural disasters and war around the world.

Church Calendar at a Glance

March 22	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Sunday School Worship Choir Practice
March 28	9:00 a.m.	Spring Work Day
March 29	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Sunday School Worship - Palm/Passion
Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
March 30 - April 2	12:00 p.m.	Noonday Holy Week Service & Lunch
April 3	12:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross Walk @ Aldridge Creek Greenway (Mt. Gap Rd. access)
April 5	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday Worship

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.

A Community of Hope