Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church *makes Christ known* by *welcoming all people* to a *supportive and accepting place* to *grow in faith* and community and to *serve the Lord* as people created by God, saved by Christ and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher, if they would like a follow up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), through on-line bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward. We offer either wine or juice and gluten-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. Those who do not receive communion are invited to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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WORDS FOR REFLECTION

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

PRELUDE

Prelude on LOVE UNKNOWN

John Ireland arr. Wilbur Held

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \oplus one God, who calls us to new life in the waters of baptism and leads us on the journey of faith.

C Amen.

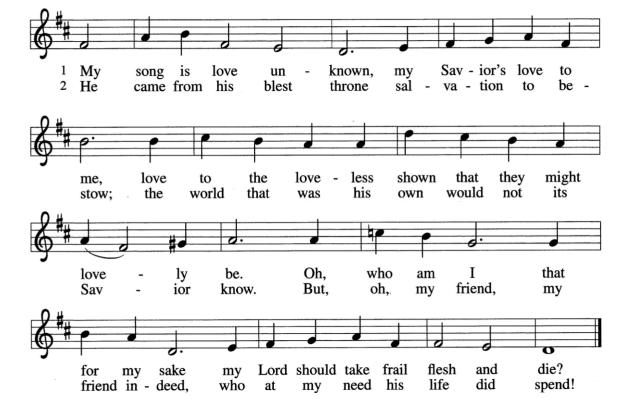
P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy God,
- C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.
- P Here, in this font, we find a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through \pm Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN My Song Is Love Unknown (vs. 1–2, 5–6) **ELW 343**



5. In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home But mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6. Here might I stay and sing—
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt. Music: John Ireland, 1879-1962. Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

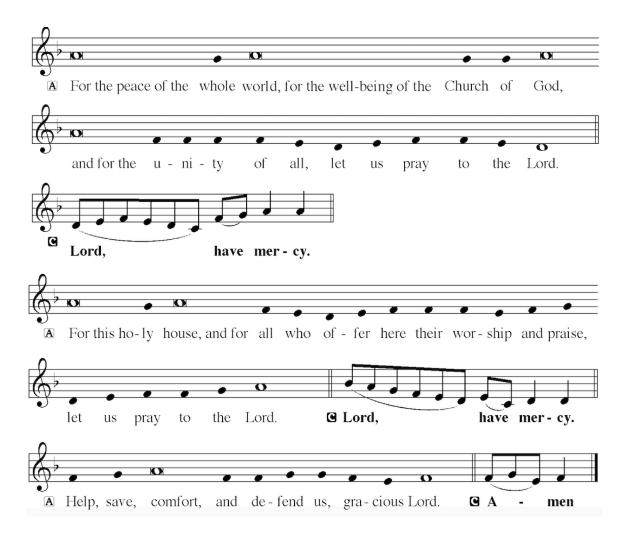
KYRIE





A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.





- *P* The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. O God,
- C with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

L A reading from Jeremiah.

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my

Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 51:1–12

The Psalm will be sung responsively, by verse.



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know | my offenses, and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

- 5 Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- 6 Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me, and would have me know wisdom | deep within.
- 7 Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- 8 Let me hear | joy and gladness; that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face | from my sins, and blot out | all my wickedness.
- 10 Create in me a clean | heart, O God, and renew a right spi- |rit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- Restore to me the joy of | your salvation and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

L A reading from Hebrews.

Christ also did not promote himself to become high priest. Instead, it was the one who said to him, You are my Son. Today I have become your Father, as he also says in another place, You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard

because of his godly devotion. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered. After he had been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for everyone who obeys him. He was appointed by God to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand, as able, and sing.



THE GOSPEL John 12:20–33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter:



Some Greeks were among those who had come up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and made a request: "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip told Jesus. Jesus replied, "The time has come for the Human One to be glorified. I assure you that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their lives will lose them, and those who hate their lives in this world will keep them forever. Whoever serves me must follow me. Wherever I am, there my servant will also be. My Father will honor whoever serves me.

"Now I am deeply troubled. What should I say? 'Father, save me from this time'? No, for this is the reason I have come to this time. Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard and said, "It is thunder." Others said, "An angel spoke to him."

Jesus replied, "This voice was not for my benefit but for yours. Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

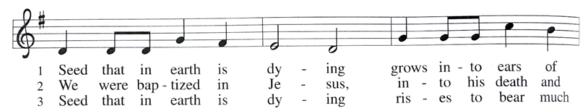
CHILDREN'S TIME

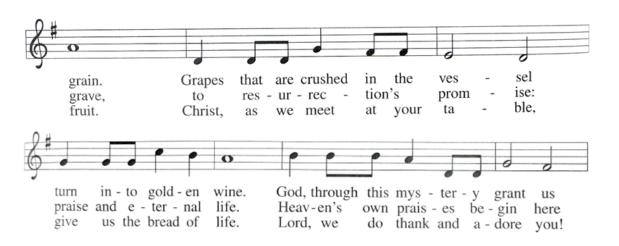
SERMON

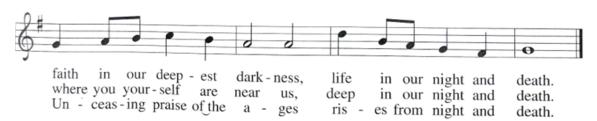
HYMN OF THE DAY

Seed That in Earth Is Dying ELW 330

Please stand, as able, and sing.







Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929. Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944. Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh. Music © Norsk Musikforlag.

APOSTLE'S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us including Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today, and those who have guided us in our own faith journeys. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love that holds those dear to us. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children, including ELCA World Hunger and their partner organizations. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Ease the passing of those in their last days, and comfort those who are mourning. We pray for all on our prayer list, including Vera, Leslie, Bill, Joshua, Dawn, Jon, Cheryl, Judy, Jon & Maria, Sandy, Karen, and Jim. (Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of every time and place, you are with us in every moment of joy and of need. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, and guide us in our efforts to expand our welcome to new partners. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Attend to us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

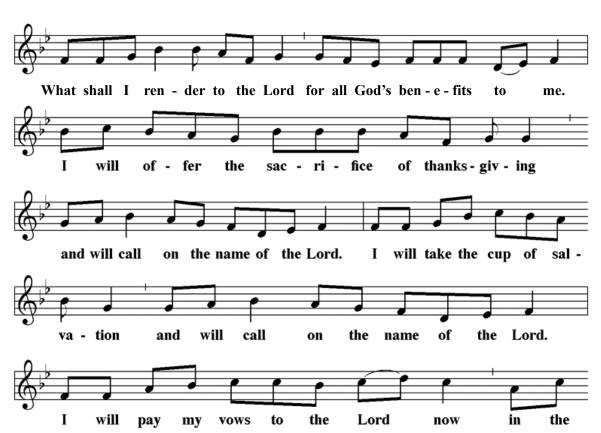
THE OFFERING

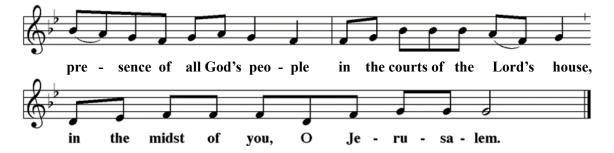
Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

P Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

Meditative Moment James Denton

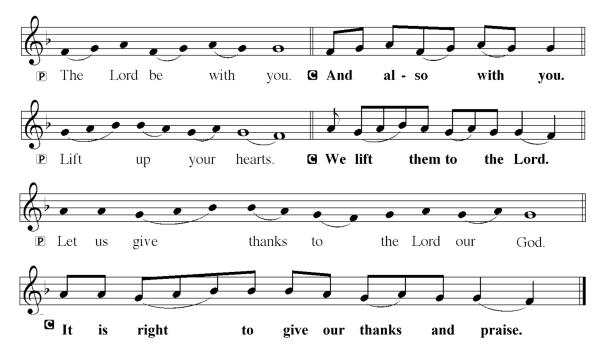




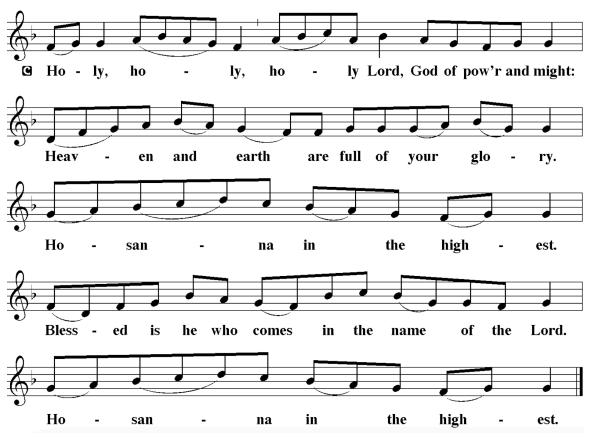
A Let us pray. Beloved Jesus,

C you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

C The earth is full of your glory.

P O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

C The earth is full of your glory.

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

C The earth is full of your glory.

P O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

C The earth is full of your glory.

- P Amen, and amen.
- C Amen, and amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

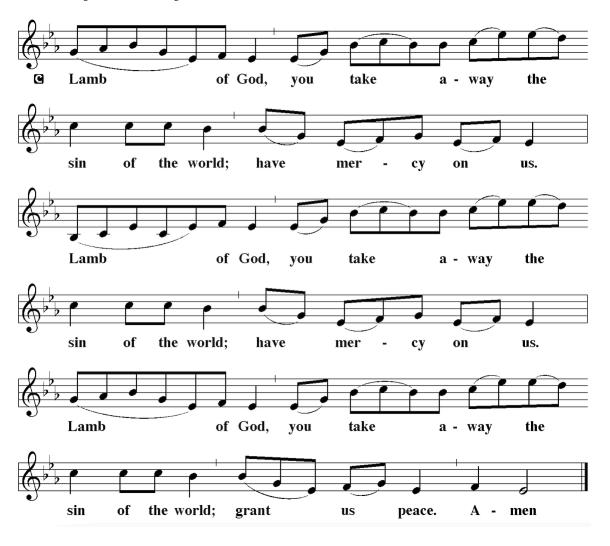
- *P* Jesus, teach us to pray:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

P Jesus offers us bread for the journey.

C We come to the feast with hungry hearts.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.



COMMUNION HYMN

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth **ELW 340**



- 1 A lamb goes un com plain-ing forth to save a world of sin ners.
- 2 This lamb is Christ, our great-est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav ior,
- 3 Our Sav ior an swered from his heart that he would take the bur den:
- 4 Of death I am no more a-fraid; your dy-ing is my liv-ing.



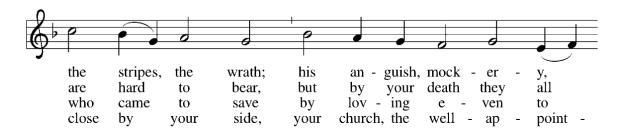
He bears the bur-den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors. whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver. Fa - ther's will is my com-mand; I'll do as I am bid - den." clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.

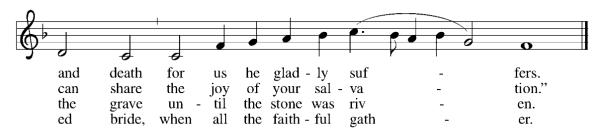


goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is die He led to with down, my child," the Fa - ther said, "and "Go free chil - dren mv won-drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what Oh. mor - tals love is dress e - nough for me wear through all Your to



out com-plaint; his spot-less life he of-fers. He bears the shame, from their dread of death and con-dem-na-tion. The pain-ful stripes can - not right the Son was sent from heav-en. What love, O Love, ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav-en, where we shall stand





Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.

Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487-1553

Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Stand, if you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Generous God,

C at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one to nourish the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

THE BENEDICTION

P In our lifelong journey of faith, the cross is the symbol that reminds us of our forgiveness and calls us to give witness to the love of God in our lives. Receive the \pm sign of the cross, a sign of God's endless love and mercy for you.

You may make the sign of the cross, as invited by the leader.

Mark the ⊕ cross on your eyes, that you may see the light of Christ illumining your way.

Mark the + cross on your lips, that you may sing the praise of Christ.

Mark the ⊕ cross on your heart, that God may dwell within you by faith.

Mark the

the cross on your hands, that God's mercy may be known in your work.

Mark the ♯ cross over your feet, that you may follow in the way of Christ.

C Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

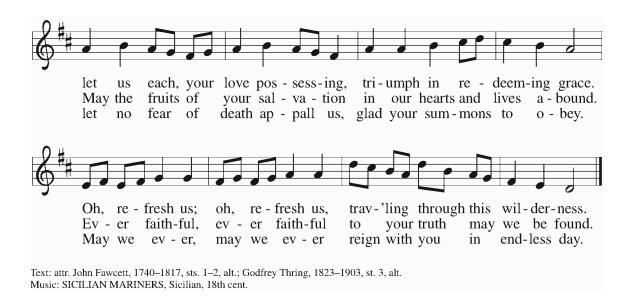
SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing ELW 545

All stand, as able, and sing.



- 1 Lord, dis miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion for your gos pel's joy ful sound.
- 3 Sav ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil grim way,



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Chorale on VERZAGE NICHT, O FROMMER CHRIST

Johann Hermann Schein arr. Samuel Scheidt

Flower Dedication In celebration of 8 years cancer free and St. Patrick's Day! -Jackie & Charlie

Next Week's Lessons: Zechariah 9:9-10 Psalm 118:1-4 Philippians 2:5-11

John 12:12-16

Serving in Worship		
	Today, Sun. 3/17	Next Week, Sun 3/24
Altar Guild	Mary/Sandy	Mary/Sandy
Counter	Howard Corneilson	George Pawlo
Assistant Minister	Doug Laird	Sibylle Schroeder
Lector	Demetria Laird	Mary Kasakove
Communion Assist.	Cindy Pawlo	George Pawlo
Usher/Greeter/Acolyte	Sibylle Schroeder	Cindy Pawlo
Soloist	Howard Corneilson	TBA
Livestream Assistant	Ray Mueller	Nick Senior

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Thursday, 3/21: 10:30am-9:00pm; Sunday, 3/24: 9:00am-2:00pm

Erin Porter: Thursday, 3/21: 9:00-12:00

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Dawn Larsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Elisabeth & Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Evelyn & Woody Woodruff, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Harold Olsen, Aimee Nilsen, Joy Laird, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Joan Lewis, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, Tara Woodard-Lehman, Peter Arzikovic, Ken Merson, the Masone Family, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Mike Schroeder, Vera Reybitz, Leslie Picinich, and Hailey Ochs Plante.

Those in mourning: The family of Neil Nilsen (father of Heather Nilsen), the family of Henry Olson (brother of Nancy Ayotte), the family of Ann Diecke, the family of Rick Oliva (brother-in-law of Shelli & Mark Skeels), the family of Elfriede Kiesling, and the family of Pat Scalora.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ~ Church office hours: During Lent, Pastor Serena will generally hold office hours on Thursdays and Sundays. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.
- ~ Food Pantry Needs for March: Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot-dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten free pasta.
- ~ Altar Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested send an email to Erin Porter with your dedication and date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ Interested in hosting a coffee hour? Not hard. Just bring some store bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

Art: Photo by Julian Paolo Dayag on Unsplash. Public use permitted. Accessed on 03/12/2024.

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This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, March 17:

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- Outreach Team meeting, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, March 18:

Tuesday, March 19:

Wednesday, March 20:

• Senior's Ministry Tea Party, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21:

- Prayer Service @ Mt Olive Manor, 4:30 p.m.
- Children's Church, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
- Soup Supper, 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek Lenten Service, 7:30 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 22:

• Newsletter deadline.

Saturday, March 23:

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, March 24:

- Palm Sunday Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
 In-person and Live-streamed
- Mid-service Sunday school
- Forum: Bible Translations, 11:30 a.m.
- Palm Sunday Potluck Lunch with Mok Yang Korean Methodist Church, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, March 25:

Tuesday, March 26:

Wednesday, March 27:

Thursday, March 28:

- Seder Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30pm

Friday, March 29:

- Choir Rehearsal 6:45 p.m.
- Good Friday Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30:

• Easter Vigil Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Easter Sunrise Service, March 31: 6:30 a.m.

Congregational Forum on Partnership: Sustainability & Stakeholders, 4/14: 11:30 a.m.

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live