

# Second Sunday of Lent

March 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

Portage Lake United Church



Lectionary Year C

*Liturgical Color: Purple*





# Welcome and Announcements

*We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## TASTE & SEE FLAVORS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

LENT 2025

03/12  
&  
04/09

Portage Lake United Church  
1400 E Houghton Ave, Houghton, MI 49931

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1100 College Ave, Houghton, MI 49931

03/19  
&  
04/02



**"O TASTE AND SEE  
THAT THE LORD IS  
GOOD; HAPPY ARE  
THOSE WHO TAKE  
REFUGE IN HIM."  
- PSALM 34:8**

**SOUP- 5:30 PM WORSHIP-6:00 PM**

- Lenten Soup and Worship with Good Shepherd @ GSLC Wed. March 19th
- Soup at 5:30 with Worship @ 6:00.
- Consistory meeting Tuesday March 18th @ 6:00
- We are looking for folks to do coffee for the last two Sundays in March.
- Angel Mission needs: Low Sodium canned meats and meat entrees (sloppy-joe, etc)
- *Are there any other announcements?*

### ***Serving This Morning***

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

Reader: Beth Smock

Prayer Reader: Jim Northey

Coffee: Lois Jambekar, Mary Eckhart

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen



*Flowers today are provided by Rick vonBatchelder in memory of Melville Merrifield*

# MEDITATION

# PRELUDE

I have learned that I cannot always expect my life to be full.  
There has to be some emptying, some pouring out,  
if I am to make room for the new.

*(Joyce Rupp)*





## ✚ Call to Worship (responsive)

The Lord is our light and our salvation;  
whom shall we fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life;  
of whom shall we be afraid?

We seek your face, O Lord.

Do not hide your face from us!

Do not forsake us,

O God of our salvation!

Make us strong,

and let our hearts take courage.

We wait for the Lord.

Let us worship God!





# Hymn "How Firm a Foundation" #361 BLUE

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"K" in *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787  
Ed. John Rippon; alt.

FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11

American folk melody  
Funk's *Genuine Church Music*, 1832



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dis - mayed,  
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,



Is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent Word!  
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
The riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow;  
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;



What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
For I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign



To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
Up - held by My righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
And sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
Thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

## ✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, though we continue to stumble,  
you have made us citizens of heaven.  
Through Christ you have claimed us  
and transformed us by your glory.  
Oh, how your goodness astounds us!  
By the power of your Spirit,  
give us courage in faithfulness  
**Amen.**



*Sherry Middlemis-Brown*



## ✚ Prayer of Confession (unison)

Loving God,  
you have formed a covenant with us,  
committing yourself to us  
and inviting us to walk with you.  
Yet we have resisted,  
seeking other companions,  
going in different ways,  
thinking that we know best.  
Now we find ourselves far from life,  
further still from you.  
Have mercy on our waywardness.  
Help us find our way back.  
Give us faith so that we can hold the hand  
you have extended to us in Jesus Christ.



# + PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

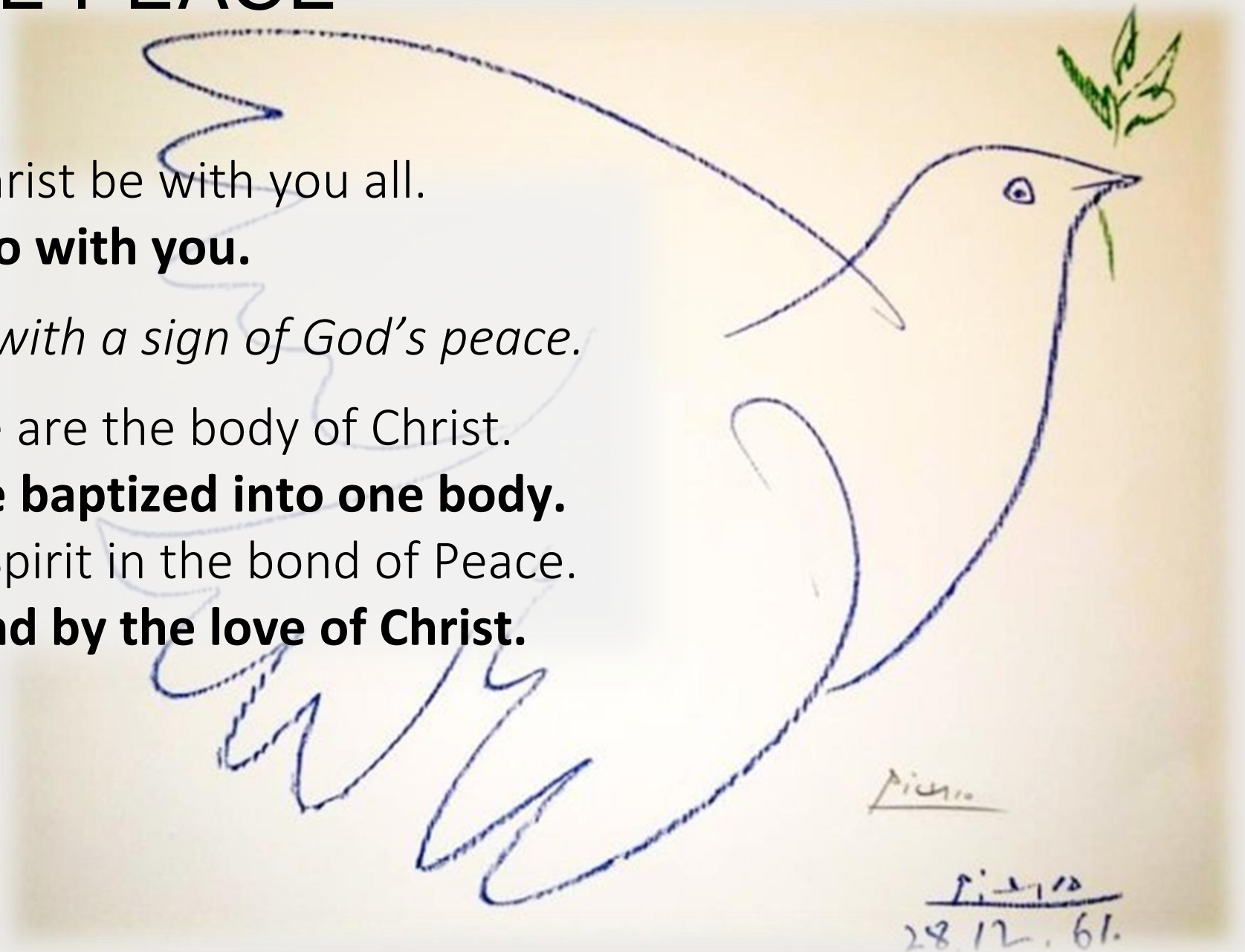
*We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.*

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

**By one spirit we were baptized into one body.**

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

**Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.**





" The destruction of Earth's environment is the human rights challenge of our time.



**WORD**



## Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

**15** After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” **2** But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” **4** But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” **5** He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” **6** And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. **7** Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” **8** But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” **9** He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” **10** He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. **12** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him

**17** When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...”

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God



## Philippians 3:17-4:1

**17** Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. **18** For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. **19** Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. **21** He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.**1** Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**



JESUS CHRIST

## 303

## Jesus, Lover of My Soul

ABERYSTWYTH 7.7.7 D

Charles Wesley, 1740

Joseph Parry, 1879



1. Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, Let me to Thy bos - om fly,
2. Oth - er ref - uge have I none; Hangs my help-less soul on Thee;
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find:
4. Plen - teous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cov - er all my sin;



While the near - er wa - ters roll, While the tem-pest still is high:  
Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, Still sup - port and com-fort me.  
Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.  
Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; Make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;  
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;  
Just and ho - ly is Thy name; I am all un - righ - teous-ness;  
Thou of life the foun-tain art, Free-ly let me take of Thee;



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide; O re - ceive my soul at last!  
Cov - er my de - fense-less head With the shad-ow of Thy wing.  
False and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.  
Spring Thou up with - in my heart, Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.



## ✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 13:31-35

### The Lament over Jerusalem

**31** At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” **32** He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. **33** Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ **34** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! **35** See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God



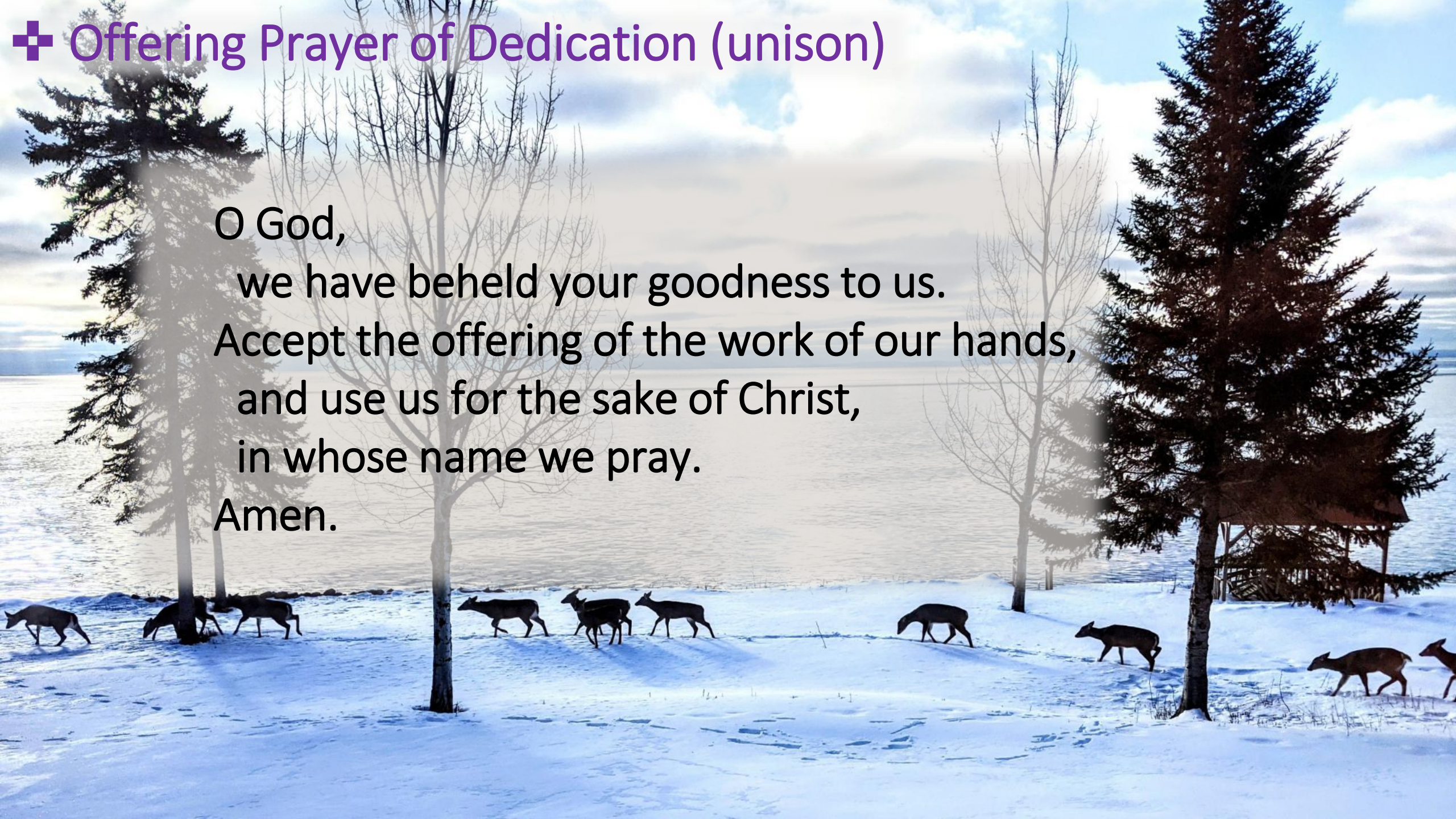


**Sermon**



# ✦ Offering Prayer of Dedication (unison)

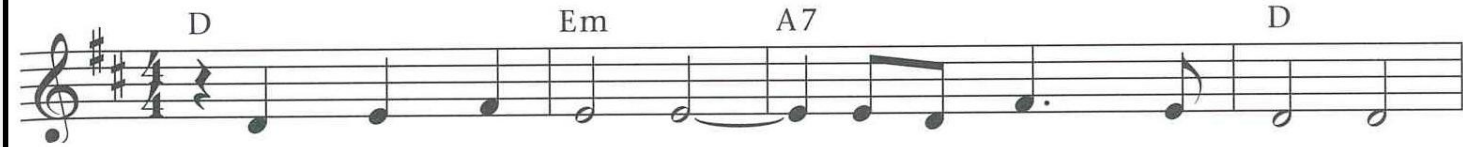
O God,  
we have beheld your goodness to us.  
Accept the offering of the work of our hands,  
and use us for the sake of Christ,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.



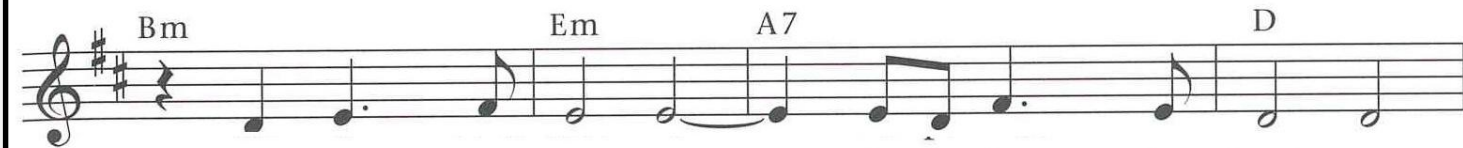


# HYMN “When We Are Living” #193 GREEN

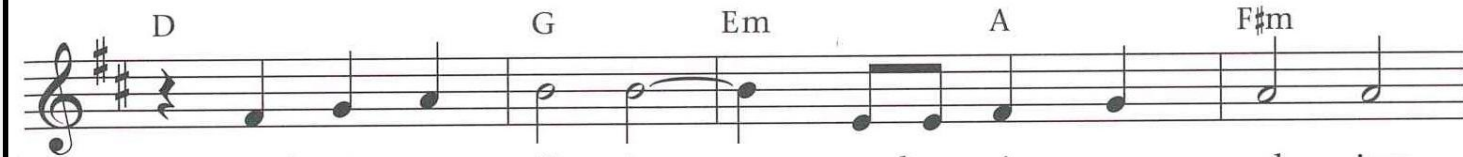
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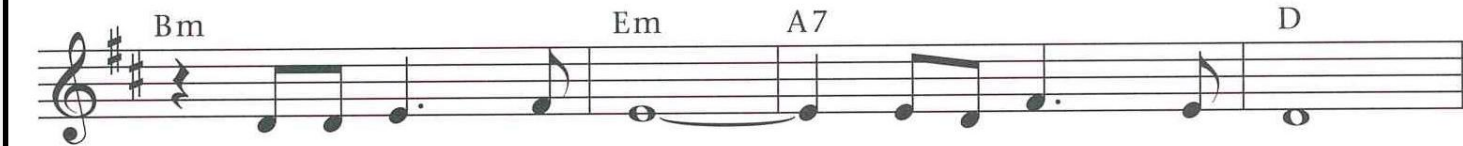
English 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,  
2 Through all our liv - ing, we our fruits must give.—



and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord.—  
Good works of ser - vice are for of - fer - ing.—



Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,  
When we are giv - ing or when re - ceiv - ing,



we be-long to God, we be-long to God.

- 3 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 4 Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind.  
But when we help them or when we feed them,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.

10 10 10 10  
SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Text: St. 1, Spanish, anonymous, tr. Elise S. Eslinger (b. 1942); st. 2-4, Roberto Escamilla (b. 1931),  
tr. George Lockwood (b. 1946)

Music: Spanish melody

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# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION





# PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

## *ECUMENICAL*

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**



I Will Establish My Covenant © Jan Richardson

## Lead Me, Guide Me

TRUST, GUIDANCE

768

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.  
Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: Doris Akers, 1922–1995

Music: Doris Akers

Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

Irregular



# SENDING

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

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

Loved ones of God,  
stand firm in the Lord.

The God of reconciliation bless you,  
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,  
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you  
this day and forevermore. Amen.





# Reflection and Postlude

## Questions for Reflection

*In Luke 13:35 Jesus says, “And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”*

*To what sort of “seeing” does Jesus refer?*

*Is Jesus calling for more than a verbal declaration that he is the Messiah?*

*How might I live so that I become a testimony that Jesus is truly the one who comes in the name of God?*



## *Thanks to*

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Susie Byykkonen

Greeter: Nancy Byers Sprague, Dianne Sprague

Reader: Beth Smock

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## **Portage Lake United Church**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.  
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

## *Visio Divina*

### **Photos by**

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Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Matthew Monte

Jim Northey

### **Artwork**

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