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MARCH 10, 2024, 10:30 AM  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

*Nearer, My God to, Thee*

arr. Heather Sorenson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL TO WORSHIP

Bruce Raines

Before we were born,  
**Before we took our first breath,**  
Before the week started,  
**Before the year started,**  
Before we said, “I love you,”  
**Before we said, “I’m sorry,”**  
Before we figured out who we really are,  
**Before we figured out who we want to be,**  
Before it all—  
**God loved us.**  
Unconditionally and freely,  
**Fully and honestly—**  
God loved us.  
**Again and again, this is where our story begins.**  
Let us worship God!

† *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

† **HYMN OF PRAISE** *O God, Who Gives Us Life* **Hymn 53**

† **CALL TO CONFESSION**

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story— that we were made from love, to be love, to give love. Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation, we skip ahead and find our worth at the fall, with Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness. We forget that first there was you, and you are love. We forget that out of that love you created us. We forget that from the very first day, you loved first. We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us. Forgive our low self-esteem. Forgive our resistance to love ourselves. Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good. And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on—from generation to generation. Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love. With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

† **SILENT CONFESSION**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves— God is love, and God is loving us.

Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven, and cared for. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—thanks be to God. Amen!

† **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

† **KYRIE** *Kyrie* **Hymn 576**

## **THE WORD**

**MEDITATION FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*  
arr. Roberta Bitgood

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 1:1-5

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Matthew 2:1-12

**SERMON**

Foiling Light

Rev. Ralph Lowe



**HYMN**

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**Hymn 649**



**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe God is love— Unconditional, constant love. We believe this love exists for all, choosing each and every one of us, day after day, again and again and again. We believe that God’s love is like a river. Rivers cannot help but flow toward the sea; God’s love cannot help but move toward us. We are swimming in it. We believe that God loved first. We believe that God breathed life into dust. We believe that God said, “This is good,” and because we believe that God loved first, we strive to build lives that reflect God’s love. May we begin again here. Amen.

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

*Please place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary  
as you exit after worship or consider giving online at [www.glenshawchurch.org](http://www.glenshawchurch.org).*

**OFFERTORY**

*Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)*  
Chancel Choir MaryKay Vallo, soloist

arr. James Koerts



**DOXOLOGY**

**Hymn 606**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**SHARING THE JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Hymnal Page 35**

## GO IN GOD'S NAME

†	<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>	<b>Hymn 462</b>
†	<b>CHARGE AND BENEDICTION</b>		
†	<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<i>Nearer, My God to, Thee</i>	arr. Diane Bish

## WORSHIP NOTES

**TODAY WE WELCOME REV. RALPH LOWE** to the pulpit. Rev. Lowe is the primary presbytery staff liaison for the North Branch and West Branch of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, as well as the Administrative Commission for Transformation, Amos 5:24 Ministry Team, Anti-Racism Transformation Team, Freedom Rising Pilot Project, Peacemaking Ministry Team, Hunger Fund Ministry Team, National Black Presbyterian Caucus Pittsburgh Chapter, Great Commission, and the Self-Development of People Ministry Team.

**TODAY (SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024) IS WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY.** For centuries, women were excluded or discouraged from contributing music for the church. Established in 2021 by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the United Kingdom and adopted by the American Guild of Organists, Woman Composer Sunday raises awareness of the contributions of these composers during Women's History Month.

Our organist, Corinne, is joining others in the U.K., United States, and around the world on this day by performing *Nearer, My God, to Thee* by Heather Sorenson as the Prelude and another arrangement by Diane Bish as the Postlude. The American Guild of Organists has published *Children of the Heavenly Father*, arranged by Roberta Bitgood for all organists to play on this Sunday. This will be the meditation during the usual Time for Young Disciples. Roberta Bitgood (Wiersma) (15 January 1908 – 15 April 2007) was an American organist, choir director, and composer. She was a pioneer of 20th-century American church music, and the first woman to serve as national president of the American Guild of Organists. We are also featuring MaryKay Vallo, one of our choir members, as a soloist in the anthem *Come to Jesus*. Happy Women's History Month and Woman Composer Sunday!

**VISITORS**, please **complete a visitor card found** in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We are glad to have you worship with us!

**WE RECORD OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE.** We invite each member of your family in attendance to sign the friendship pad at the end of each pew. We are glad to have you worship with us!

### **CHILDREN'S CHRIST CANDLES**

Parents and grandparents, please have your children look for the Christ candle near the activity table. They can light their own tea candle and place it with the larger one.

### **LENTEN PARAMENTS**

The Lenten paraments are crafted in a batik fabric, in various hues of purple - the color used during our two seasons of preparation (Advent and Lent). Emphasizing this season of simplicity, the Table paraments include no additional decoration or symbols. The lectern parament and the pastor's stole are emblazoned with the "passion cross." The pointed ends of the cross evoke the spear that pierces Jesus' side at his crucifixion. These paraments provide a stark contrast to the splendor of the paraments for the Season of Easter.

### **PERSONAL PRIVACY DURING LIVESTREAM OF SUNDAY WORSHIP**

It is important for our members, guests, and visitors to be aware that we livestream our worship service. If you are joining us for in person worship but prefer not to appear on the livestream video, we have 2 specific areas in the sanctuary where you can sit comfortably and not appear on the video. The first area is the left transept on the main floor and the second is the center balcony area. An usher will be happy to help you find these areas.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE**

Please save the date of **Sunday, April 14** to give the gift of blood. This event is being hosted by the Deacons with Myron McGoun leading this important drive. More details in this week's *Tuesday Tidings* email newsletter.

**PER CAPITA** for 2024 is \$36.35.

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

We are offering a wide assortment of spring flowers to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning this year! The cost of each flower is designated below and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 17.**

Hydrangea 6" pot - \$13.00 each

Daffodil, Hyacinth, or Tulip 6" pot - \$7.00 each

Gerbera Daisy or Cyclamen 4" pot - \$5.00 each

Tête-à-tête Daffodil 4" pot - \$3.00 each

To place an order, please fill out an envelope in the narthex and return it to the church office including payment for the flowers. Please pick up your Easter flower(s) immediately after the service on Easter morning.

## **DEACON FOOD COLLECTION**

PALM SUNDAY, March 24, is the annual FILL A TRUCK drop off collection of unexpired non-perishable groceries for our neighbors at the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Etna. You will see a couple of deacons at the portico on the Pennsylvania Avenue side waiting to unload and receive your donations Sunday morning from 9:00 until noon. Monetary contributions are also welcomed by the BOLFP and you may write your check payable to Glenshaw Presbyterian Church Deacons with (BOLFP – Fill a truck) in the memo line. If each Deacon and each person/family donates even a small bag of groceries, WE CAN SURELY FILL THE TRUCK!!! Thank you for supporting this important event!

## **DEACON REQUEST**

Beginning APRIL 28 through JULY 7, we will be collecting your unwanted household treasures (excluding clothing) for the upcoming open air flea market scheduled for July 20. Thank you for saving your items for the Deacon's ongoing work!

## **CHANCEL FLOWERS**

We are now accepting orders for chancel flowers to brighten our sanctuary during our Sunday services. The cost to sponsor both arrangements dedicated to a loved one, to the Glory of God, or any dedication so desired each week is \$55. **To order flowers, please contact Jennifer in the church office** by calling 412-486-8400 ext. 110 or emailing [jennifer@glenshawchurch.org](mailto:jennifer@glenshawchurch.org) by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before your desired Sunday.

# THIS WEEK AT GLENSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## TODAY

**March 10, 2023**

- 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 9:30 AM Adult Education in the Parlor
- 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Fellowship in the Parlor

## MONDAY

**March 11, 2023**

- All Day Church Office Closed
- 5:00 PM Early Learning Center Board Meeting

## TUESDAY

**March 12, 2023**

- 7:00 PM Properties Committee Meeting

## WEDNESDAY

**March 13, 2023**

- 7:00 PM Music and Worship Meeting

## THURSDAY

**March 14, 2023**

- 1:00 PM Staff Meeting
- 5:30 PM The Neighborhood Table
- 6:30 PM Carillon Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## SUNDAY

**March 17, 2023**

- 9:30 AM Adult Education in the Parlor
- 9:30 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Fellowship in the Parlor

### GPC OFFICE HOURS :

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Welcoming all who seek to know God,  
Glenshaw Presbyterian Church invites  
individuals and families to join in our  
journey of faith as we share the love of  
Jesus Christ with one another, the  
community, and the world.



### **The GPC Session**

Sherry Martin, Clerk of Session

#### **Class of 2024**

Alain Richardson  
Brian Helfferich  
April Klein  
Chick Pfeiffer

#### **Class of 2025**

Alan Cridge  
Mark Held  
Sherry Martin  
Donna Walker

#### **Class of 2026**

Carla Berg  
Ray Hack  
Betty Miller  
Tom Tabor

### **----- CHURCH STAFF -----**

Rev. Emily Cooper, *Pastor*

Cell phone: 412-334-2730

Corinne Adkins, *Director of Music & Organist*

Lois Cridge, *Business Manager*

Jennifer Zanke, *Office Manager*

Fawn Pignoli, *Director of the GPC Early Learning Center*

Frank Maksin, *Property Manager*

Lia Knight, *A/V Tech*

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