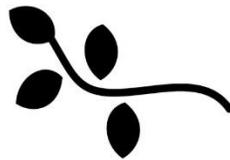




**...a season to dream, explore and recommit to  
faith in action!**



**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
CELEBRATING LOVE. DOING JUSTICE.

**Sunday March 1, 2026 – 10:30 AM**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**PRELUDE**      “Lenten Meditation”

Chris Henke

**SILENT PROCESSION**

**GREETING**

Blessed be God who loves us in our limitations and fosters our loving all whom we meet.

**Blessed be the ones who welcome the Christ in us all.**

**CONFESSION**

During the season of Lent we take inventory of our lives, as we confess our separation from God, our neighbors, and ourselves. A period of silence for personal prayer and reflection will be observed.

Let us pray together;

**Most merciful God, we confess before you and one another that we have fallen short of the wholeness you desire for us. We have betrayed your trust. We have been less than you created us to be. We have failed to speak out against that which is evil. We have cooperated with systems of injustice. We have built our prosperity upon the lives of others who suffer. We know that you accept and forgive us. We know that you are always ready to heal us of our ignorance and lack of concern for others. Help us to open our hearts to your love, that in so doing we may love ourselves along with our neighbor, strive for justice for all people, and hold forth the vision of what is possible. This we pray as Jesus, our great teacher modeled and who chose life in choosing death. AMEN.**

**ABSOLUTION**

*The Officiant says to the People:*

God freely offers forgiveness and calls us to turn and live in the joy of God’s love. God has given power to all people to forgive one another and themselves. Therefore, know that God forgives us. Therefore let us forgive ourselves and accept others forgiven and be free.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Holy God, whose wild Spirit’s breath defies our frozen idols: take the night time of our fear and make it a welcoming womb for us and all the world; through Jesus Christ, in whom we are born anew **AMEN.**

“O God, we hear and hear, and do not understand. We see and see, but do not perceive. Sharpen our memory, unlock our grief, teach us to name what is evil and refuse it: even when it seems normal even when it seems necessary even when it is commanded by religion; then, now, always.” **AMEN.**

## SCRIPTURE APPOINTED for the DAY

### A reading from the Book of Genesis Chapter 12 :1-4a

Translation; Complete Jewish Bible

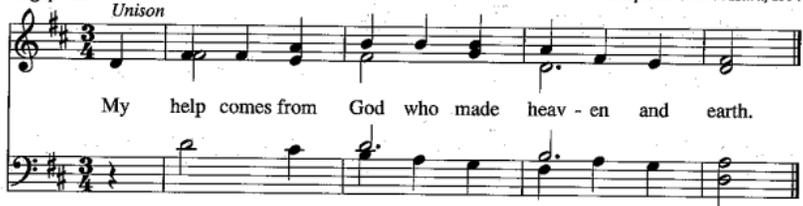
Now Adonai said to Abram, "Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed." <sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as Adonai had said to him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 121** (NCH pg. 704) *Krista will chant the verses, the congregation sing the response*

### Psalm 121

Response *Unison* *Antiphon: David Hurd, 1994*



My help comes from God who made heaven and earth.

*R*

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?

<sup>5</sup>God is your keeper;  
God is your shade at your side.

<sup>2</sup>My help comes from God,  
who made heaven and earth.

<sup>6</sup>The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

<sup>3</sup>God will not let your foot be moved;  
God who keeps you will not  
slumber.

<sup>7</sup>God will keep you from all evil;  
God will keep your life.

<sup>4</sup>God who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep. *R*

<sup>8</sup>God will keep your going out and your  
coming in  
from this time on and forevermore. *R*

*(May be sung with double tone.)*

704

### A reading from Frederick Buechner book Wishful Thing

SOME THINK A CHRISTIAN is one who necessarily *believes* certain things. That Jesus was the son of God, say. Or that Mary was a virgin. Or that the pope is infallible. Or that all other religions are all wrong.

Some think a Christian is one who necessarily *does* certain things. Such as going to church. Getting baptized. Giving up liquor and tobacco. Reading the Bible. Doing a good deed a day.

Some think a Christian is just a nice person.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). He didn't say that any particular ethic, doctrine, or religion was the way, the truth, and the life. He said that he was. He didn't say that it was by believing or doing anything in particular that you could "come to the Father." He said that it was only by him—

by living, participating in, being caught up by the way of life that he embodied, that was his way.

Thus it is possible to be on Christ's way and with his mark upon you without ever having heard of Christ, and for that reason to be on your way to God though maybe you don't even believe in God.

A Christian is one who is on the way, though not necessarily very far along it, and who has at least some dim and half-baked idea of whom to thank.

A Christian isn't necessarily any nicer than anybody else. Just better informed.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

**Thanks be to God**

### **THE GOSPEL OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN**

The Gospel of the Savior.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **HOMILY**

#### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God, who creates all things, who embraces all things, who celebrates all things, who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.**

**We believe in God as the source of all life, who baptizes this planet with living water.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one, the malnourished one, the climate refugee, who loves and cares for this world and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life, who came to reconcile and renew this world and everything in it.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who moves with God and who moves among and with us today. And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to death and all destructive forces.**

#### **PRAYERS and PETITIONS of the PEOPLE**

O God of our hearts, God of love, you are with us in every transition and change.

We recall your deep compassion, presence and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

God of mercy, God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

During this season of Lent, let us hold close to our hearts all those in need, those who suffer, and those who mourn. In the prayers that follow, you are invited to respond with your own concerns and thanksgivings related to the particular focus of each petition

For those who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment, underemployment or loneliness, that we may lift each other's' burdens.

*(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)*

O God of mercy,

**Receive our prayer.**

For the health and regeneration of our living planet Earth, that we may accept our responsibility for its care and future.

*(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)*

O God of creation,

**Receive our prayer.**

For all who govern within our towns, states and nations, that they will hear and heed the cry of all in need, and awaken to the call for peace.

*(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)*

O God of reconciliation,

**Receive our prayer**

For those who struggle to see you in their lives and relationships, that we may reflect your Divine love to them.

*(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)*

O God of tenderness,

**Receive our prayer.**

For all who are harmed because of their race or ethnicity, that we may work to dismantle systems of oppression.

*(You are invited to add your specific concerns and thanksgivings in this area.)*

O God of love,

**Receive our prayer.**

We now pray the concerns and thanksgivings of this parish family.

*(You are invited to add additional concerns and thanksgivings.)*

We know that you hear our prayers, O God. During this season of Lent, help us to open ourselves to the needs of those around us, that by so doing, we may reveal the beauty of your beloved community. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The Savior will not command legions of angels nor ride the machine of holy war; the Redeemer will become a slave, take our hate into their heart and win us with forgiveness, for the Savior is God's unexpected peace.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERTORY** – “Safe Within Your Arms” - Mark Hayes

Krista Donough – Soprano, Chris Henke - Piano

## **GATHERING at the TABLE**

God be with you!

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Creator.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, God of all creation;  
In your love you made us for yourself,  
When we turned away  
you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**Christ opened his arms in love.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them saying:  
Take eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:  
His body is the bread of life.**

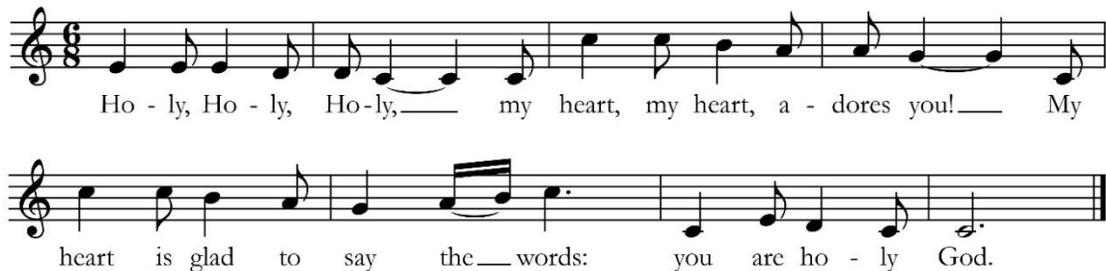
At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
He gave thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:  
This is the cup of blessing.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
Send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
May be to us the body and blood of Jesus.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
Make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
We offer you this sacrifice of praise  
And lift our voice to join the eternal hymn of heaven:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, my heart, my heart, a - dores you! My  
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly God.

Before Jesus's mortal death, he taught us and we are bold to pray in whatever language or form that brings us closer to God,

**Our Mother, 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 forever. AMEN.**

### **THE INVITATION**

Christ was always the guest.

At the tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest.

Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the quest.

But here at this table, Christ is the host.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus Christ who sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

### **COMMUNION HYMN As We Gather at Your Table (NCH 332)**

1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray together

**Creator of this gathering beyond measure and price; we thank you for meeting us in our brokenness so that none might be lost: liberate us now to share our bread with neighbors and strangers, each receiving from the other what we need to be ourselves. AMEN.**

## BENEDICTION

**CLOSING HYMN** May the Sending One Defend You (NCH 79)

1 May the sending One defend you,  
may the Seeking One amend you,  
May the Keeping One befriend you,  
in your gladness and in your grieving.

2 May the Given One retrieve you,  
may the Gifted One relieve you,  
May the Giving One receive you,  
in your falling and your restoring.

3 May the Binding One unite you -  
may the One Beloved invite you -  
May the Loving One delight you -  
Three-in-One, joy in life unending.

**POSTLUDE** “Schmucke Dich” - Johannes Brahms

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Palm Sunday and Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>:** Service at 10:30 a.m. **Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Service at 6:30 p.m. **Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>,** at 6:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** Service at 10:30 a.m.

**The Serendipity Stitchers** welcome you. **Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.** 3/3 and 3/17. Our gatherings are always full of laughter, delicious treats, and plenty of good company. No experience necessary. Please get in touch with Veronica for more information.

**Annual Meeting:** March 15, following the 10:30 service.

**The Whippany River Clean-up** Saturday, 3/21/2026: The Whippany River Clean-up! 8:30 am-12 noon. 59 Spring Street, Morristown. See the Peg after the service, or fill out the signup sheet near the MLK portrait.

**Easter Flowers and Music dedication:** A beautiful tradition at Redeemer is the Easter display on all of the altars and the lovely music that fills our Church through Easter. Any contribution is appreciated. Place the completed form or envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the church office before

**Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.** Please print clearly on the form. Any questions, contact Sandra at [office@redeemermorristown.org](mailto:office@redeemermorristown.org)

**The Book Group meets online at 7pm:** 3/30/26 **THE HORSEWOMAN** by James Patterson and Mike Lupica. Please contact Veronica for the link. Please support your local bookshop and Redeemer by ordering from our online Bookshop by going here. <https://bookshop.org/shop/Redeemer>

## Keep updated with all that is going on at Redeemer

**Visit our website:** <https://redeemermorristown.org/> for further information and to sign up for our newsletter.

Please "like" and check out our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/FBchurch> or follow us on Instagram - @RedeemerMorristown - <http://bit.ly/Instachurch>.

We are now on BlueSky -@redeemermorristown.bsky.social , <https://bit.ly/RedeemerBSKY>



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Visit our website- [www.redeemermorristown.org](http://www.redeemermorristown.org) and click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner. Or (can you tell we want to make it easy for you?!), go to: <http://tinyurl.com/RedeemerDonateNow>

## From Rev. Willie J. Smith

During Lent, we have all grown up with some notion of Satan. You heard of Jesus' encounter with Satan in last Sunday's Gospel. Lent is the opportunity for us to explore our thinking about evil, Satan and Hell; whether we want to admit it or not we all have some thoughts about the aforementioned.

Here are two excerpts about Satan; one by Terry Anderson, who was held hostage by Muslims in the 1990's, the other a quote from C.S. Lewis.

### **Satan Is from Den of Lions by Terry A. Anderson**

Satan is a name we use for darkness in the world,  
a goat on which we load our most horrific sins, to carry off our guilt.  
But all the evil I have seen was done by human beings.  
It isn't a dark angel who rigs a car into a bomb, or steals money meant for others' food.  
And it wasn't any alien spirit that chain me to this wall.  
One of those who kidnapped me said once: "No man believes he's evil."  
A penetrating and subtle thought in these circumstances, and from him.  
And that's the mystery:

He's not stupid and doesn't seem insane. He knows I've done no harm to him or his.  
He looked into my face and each day for years and heard me crying in the night.  
Still daily checks my chain, makes sure my blindfold is secure, then kneels outside my cell  
and prays to Allah, merciful, compassionate.

### **The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis**

The Screwtape Letters is a satirical novel by C. S. Lewis written from the vantage point of the demon Screwtape. The demon (Screwtape) mentors his nephew (Wormwood) on the temptation of a mortal man (called the Patient) and, through this, Lewis explores evil, the Christian faith in a typical human life. Here are some quotes.

All mortals tend to turn into the thing they are pretending to be."

"The safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

"Nearly all vices are rooted in the future. Gratitude looks to the past and love to the present; fear, avarice, lust, and ambition look ahead."

It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out."

"There is nothing like suspense and anxiety for barricading a human's mind against the Enemy [God]. He wants men and women to be concerned with what they do; our business is to keep them thinking about what will happen to them."

As I have shared before Lent is time of Spring; beneath all the snow, ice slush is life. "News of warmth burst the plum. Spring comes to the cold branches."

## **FROM DEACON ERIK**

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I encourage each of you, in this season of Lent, to dream and imagine the Church of Redeemer in the 21st Century. I continue to challenge you to look at who you are as a leader in the Episcopal church, offering not just inclusive language but a congregation that acts on their faith.

Taking this time to dream and explore encourages breaking out of stagnant routines and imagining a better & brighter future. The church of the Redeemer is filled with people who believe in faith inspired by the hope that life is eternal, supported by the sustaining promise of God's unquestionable love.

Complacency leads to defeat and exclusion. This is not what I have been told is the spirit of the Church of the Redeemer. Actively exploring new initiatives and ministries is the gift of our imaginations. Now more than ever, it is time for us to dream.

I challenged you all in Advent to do some cleaning and clearing of spaces. The specific space was and is the church undercroft, which is cluttered and presents neglect. I have been told there are treasures in this space, and it is time to rescue these treasures. The opportunity to name and identify these artifacts of Redeemer's history will unearth many of the seeds of your dreams for the Church of the Redeemer.

These are gifts that require moving from dreams to planning and action that will chart the course of faith in action, our ministry in 2026, and thereafter. Let us welcome Eastertide with the joy of resurrection.

In last week's Gospel, we learned that Jesus was talking with Elijah and Moses as witnessed by Peter, James, and John. We also learned that Peter wanted to preserve this with individual huts for Jesus and the two prophets. Instead, God exclaimed this is my son whom I am pleased, listen to him. In the moment of this dramatic transfiguration, belief is realized.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deacon Erik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and flourishes.



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