



Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church

900 Country Club Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

www.shupchurch.org

10:15 am WORSHIP
March 16, 2025

The Second Sunday of Lent

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“God of grace, thank you for the cradle of the world, for the lullaby of your love, and for the brilliant colors of creation. Shelter us under your wings, Mother, and give us the strength to follow you. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- The SALT Project

ENTERING GOD’S PRESENCE

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prayer of Preparation

Introit: *I Come to the Cross*

Batstone & Soma

**I come to the cross, seeking mercy and grace;
I come to the cross, where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness and into Your strength;
Humbly I come to the cross.**

CCLI #1065469

Call to Worship (Anselm of Canterbury and Julian of Norwich) Liturgist: Tim Fako

Leader: Is Jesus Christ not a mother who like a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings?

People: **Jesus Christ is our true Mother. We received our being from Him and this is where His maternity starts and with it comes the Gentle Protection and Guard of Love which will never cease to surround us.**

*Opening Hymn: *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word,
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."**

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus, just to trust His cleansing blood,
Just in simple faith to plunge me 'neath the healing, cleansing flood!**

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, just from sin and self to cease,
Just from Jesus simply taking life and rest and joy and peace.**

**I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, wilt be with me to the end.**

Chorus:

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!"**

*Call to Confession, based on Ephesians 5

As children of God's light, we are called to do what is pleasing to the Lord: to participate in what is good, and expose what is evil. Knowing that we turn from the good, we bring our confession to God, so that what is hidden in us becomes visible, and the shadows of our hearts may be illuminated by grace. Let us pray together the prayer of confession.

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we create you in our own image. We tell you who you can be and who you cannot be. We put you under our microscope to tell you of your identity. We limit you. We limit you as though you were not sovereign. We limit you as though you did not create time. We limit you as though you were not the beginning and the end. We limit you as though you were not the ancient of days. We limit you as though you were not the self-existent one. Forgive us, we pray. Open our eyes to all you want to reveal to us of yourself. We ask this in Jesus's holy name. Amen.

(Silent Confession)

*Assurance of Pardon, based on Psalm 23

Leader: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

People: We will live as children of God's light for Christ shines on us.

*Response: *Alas & Did My Savior Bleed* (vs. 2)

**Was it for sins that I have done He suffered on the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!**

*The Passing of the Peace, American Sign Language

Speaker: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem: *Kyrie*

G. Gilpin

(For anthem story, please see end of the bulletin)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *Jesus Loves Me!*

No. 304

Children's Story Time

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." ³² He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! ³⁴ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'^[a]"

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Woman Rocking a Cradle*

Rev. Dr. Laura Strauss

Hymn: *I Need Thee Every Hour*

**I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.
I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee!
I need thee every hour, stay thou near by;
Temptations lose their power when thou art nigh.
I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee!
I need Thee every hour in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide or life is vain
I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee!
I need thee every hour, most Holy One
O make me thine indeed, thou blessed Son!
I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee;
bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee!**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Joys, Concerns, & Testimonies

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Presenting Gifts, Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

*Response: *Doxology*

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE

Hymn: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

**I am weak but Thou art strong. Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.**

**Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.**

**When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more.
Guide me gently, safely o'er to Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore.**

**Just a closer walk with Thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

*Benediction:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you; wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness; protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing; at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing; once again into our doors.

*Response

*Postlude

**If you are able to do so, please stand.*

Kyrie
By Greg Gilpin

As we begin the season of Lent, we reflect on the fact that Jesus gave up His life for our sins, so that we might have eternal life. When we lose a loved one, we can rest in the assurance that we will see them again “on the other side.” This morning’s anthem, “Kyrie,” reflects that assurance.

Greg Gilpin, the composer of this piece, had a coworker who was expecting a baby. Midway through the pregnancy, the baby was diagnosed with a very serious heart defect, and the chances of the baby’s survival were slim. When the mother went into labor and gave birth to their baby girl, they named her Bethany. Mom and Dad were able to hold little Bethany as she slipped quietly away to heaven about thirty minutes after her birth.

Greg was so moved by the faith and strength of the mother during this time that he decided the best gift he could offer her was to write a song for Bethany. The text of the music is simply the phrase “Kyrie Eleison,” which means “Lord have mercy” in the Greek language. In the middle of the song, the phrase changes to “Christi (Christ) Eleison. Alleluia!” The word alleluia is taken from the Hebrew word halleluya, as an expression of praise to God. This word was preserved, untranslated, by the early Christians as a superlative expression of thanksgiving, joy, and triumph.

The “ooo” phrase that begins and ends the song is called “Bethany’s melody.” What a beautiful remembrance of the fleeting life of baby Bethany.

When we experience the difficult journeys of our life, no matter what they are, we can be assured that the Lord will give us His mercy. Alleluia!

Happy Birthday to Jody Colby (21st) and Amy Riley (22nd)!

The Chancel Flowers were given today by Frank & Lee Cepits in memory of Lee's mother, whose birthday is March 17th and Phyllis Moore in memory of Dick Moore.

Deacon Greeter(s)/Flower Deliveries Made By: Jeff Allison & Mike Duffner

Most Needed Items for SHIM: Dried beans, lentils, pasta sauce in jars, cereal & oatmeal, soup, condiments, spices, adult diapers, baby diapers (size 4-6), dog and cat food, and personal care items.

SHIM Clothing Closet: Accepting donations of clothes (in season), shoes, and linens (no large household items). Located at the Church of Nazarene (5601 Library Road). Drop-off hours: Monday – 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. *If you are not able to deliver your donations during their hours, you can leave them in the closet outside of Findley Hall and a Mission Commission member will deliver them for you.*

Hospital visits by Pastor Laura can be scheduled through the church office. If you or someone you know is having surgery or is in the hospital, please let us know so that Pastor Laura can be there to visit and pray with you and your loved ones.

Scheduling a Meeting with Pastor Laura: if you would like to meet with Pastor Laura to discuss a matter that is **not** a medical or pastoral care emergency, please reach out to her. You can contact her via email at revlaurastrauss@gmail.com or by calling the church office at (412)561-6261 to schedule a meeting. Dropping in to say “hi” is always appreciated, but scheduling a meeting ensures that Pastor Laura can dedicate the necessary time to your discussion if needed.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer Circle – Harriet Ross & Brienne and Matt Sembrat

March – Jett Owsley & Family, the Family of Larry Elborne, Jr., Zachary Sumner

Ongoing – Ron Sumner; Nancy Brumfield; Mya Kelly; Joanna; Becca; our mission co-workers at the U.S.-Mexico border, the Rev. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar and their children, Cindy, Anna Flor, and Nathan; our sister church in Malawi, Africa, Litchenza CCAP; our WorldVision child, Pabatso Makhalanya; and all those who are affected by natural disasters.



WELCOME TO SUNSET HILLS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

CONNECT with us!

Phone: 412-561-6261

Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Address: 900 Country Club Dr. Pgh, PA 15228

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Laura E. Strauss

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. William Gracey

Website: www.shupchurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shupchurch/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun, Mar 16

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
- 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
- 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Children’s Church
- 5:00 pm AA – Findley Hall
- 5:30 pm Troop #16212 - Crystal

Mon, Mar 17

- 1:00 pm Findley Hall Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Troop #46920 – Rm. 110

Tues, Mar 18

- 12:30 pm Tues. Afternoon Bible Study – Cort Rm.
- 5:30 pm Yoga – Crystal Hall
- 6:30 pm Campanile Bells
- 7:00 pm Square Dance Class – Crystal Hall
- 7:00 pm Counseling Group – Rm. 6
- 7:45 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Wed, Mar 19

- 10:00 am Days for Girls – Wilson Hall
- 4:00 pm Quilters – Findley Hall
- 6:30pm Tai Chi – Crystal Hall

Fri, Mar 21

- 5:00 pm AA – Crystal Hall

Sun, Mar 23

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School – Findley Hall
- 9:00 am Children’s Sunday School - Library
- 10:15 am Worship – Sanctuary
- 10:45 am Children’s Church
- 4:00 pm AA – Findley Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **VBS: Take VBS to the Alaskan Wilderness!** This year's Vacation Bible School theme, *True North: Trusting God in a Wild World* is an Alaskan theme. We need to borrow the following supplies for Vacation Bible School from August 4 – 8: Canoes / Kayaks / Oars, Artificial Christmas Trees (unlighted), Coolers, Camp Chairs, Alaskan/Tundra-Themed Décor, Camping Decor/Supplies. Please make sure to put your name on your supplies so they may be returned to you in a timely manner. Supplies can be put in the Junior High Youth room, located on the left after the Sexton office in the downstairs hallways leading to the preschool. Contact Pastor Laura (revlaurastrauss@gmail.com) with any questions.
- ❖ **Mission Trip Orientation:** Those attending the Mission Trip are invited to attend the orientation meeting on Sunday, March 30th following worship in the library.
- ❖ **Letter Writing Event:** You are invited to join us after worship on Sunday, April 6, during Fellowship Hour to write letters to our government officials to advocate for childhood hunger relief. Templates will be provided, as well as stamped-envelopes and information around hunger issues addressed by PA and local government. “If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness.” - Isaiah 58:10
- ❖ **Covid Booster Clinic on April 6th:** Please complete the registration forms found outside of Findley Hall and return to Mary Abbott or Harriet Rickard no later than March 30th.
- ❖ **Mission Trip: Greenfield Presentation:** Carla and Dave Greenfield will be presenting on the history of Hot Springs and the current state of disaster recovery THIS Sunday at 9:00 a.m. during adult Sunday School. You are invited to join us as a way of preparing for our mission trip! Pastries will be provided.

It's Time to Order

EASTER FLOWERS

*Please fill out the form below
and return with cash or
check payment to the office.*

*Thank you for sharing
Easter joy with us!*



Easter Flowers

Please return this slip and cash or check payment to the church office no later than March 25th.
Flowers will be available for you to take home after worship service on Easter Sunday.

Lilies	_____	@ \$13.49
Tulips	_____	@ \$9.49
Daffodils	_____	@ \$9.49

Presented by: _____

In Memory or Honor of: _____

Enclosed is my payment of: _____