



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025



The Sermon on the Mount (1436-1443)

Fra Angelico (1387-1455)

Jesus raises his hand as he teaches his disciples about fasting and almsgiving on an isolated mountaintop. Fra Angelico painted this for one of the cells in the monastery where he lived and worked, allowing the brothers to contemplate Jesus' words "in secret".

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wentz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

Dave Troche
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

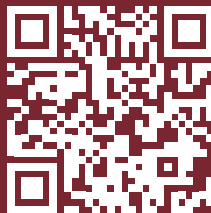


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.



WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 7:30 PM

Congregational words are in bold print.

We gather in silence.

*Please stand in body
or spirit.*

GATHERING HYMN

Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved

ELW 602



Očie nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - ľuj sa nad na - mi.
1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský,
1591-1637;
tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda,
1919-2008

Music: ZNÁME TO,
PANE BOŽE NÁS
Transcius, 1636; arr.
Michal Kutzky,
1828-1899

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Publishing House



**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

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.**

Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in

every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

*Proper verse
sung by the choir.
Congregation repeats
refrain.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow
to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)*

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and

shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, When in Dust to You

ELW 601



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,

Text: Robert Grant,
1779-1838, alt.



Music:
ABERYSTWYTH
Joseph Parry,
1841-1903

bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO LENT

The presiding minister invites the assembly into the discipline of Lent.

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please kneel or remain seated.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*At the direction of the
ushers, all may come
forward and kneel
or stand to receive
the ashes.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Please stand after
all who desired ashes
have received them.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord
Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy
Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

*After the final
petition:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

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

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERTORY

Just As I Am

Gordon Young

The Trinity Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Linda Messner
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Martha Good

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Mae Sunderland
- ♦ Will, Sophia,
David & Pamela
VanFossen
- ♦ Ralph & Vickie
Unruh
- ♦ Joann Wagner

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ the Sawyer family
- ♦ David Unruh
(brother of Ralph
Unruh)
- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Christine Wells
(friend of Jan
Opalinski)
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Nancy Souders-
Negri and Fred
Negri
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Yadar (friend of
Pat McMahan)
- ♦ Donna Osborne
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Maggie Shelly
- ♦ Joyce (friend of
Linda Motley)

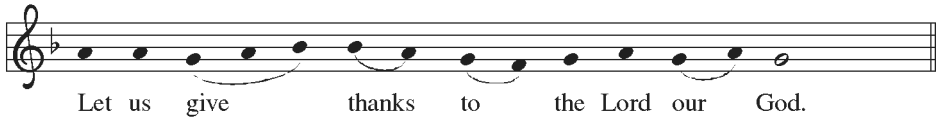
OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures
among us, opening your heart to
the world. As we prepare to feast
on your bountiful love, deepen

our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others, through
our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presider greets the
assembly and invites
all to give thanks.*



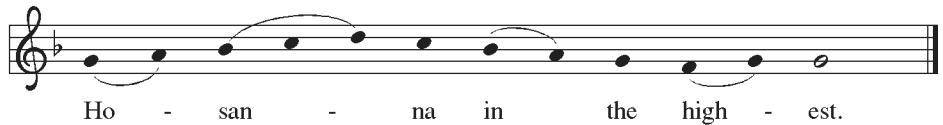
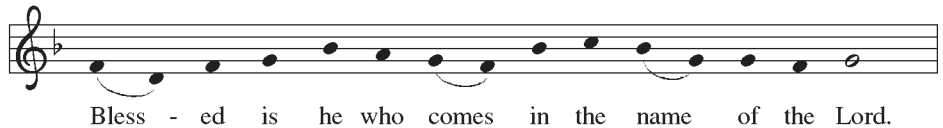
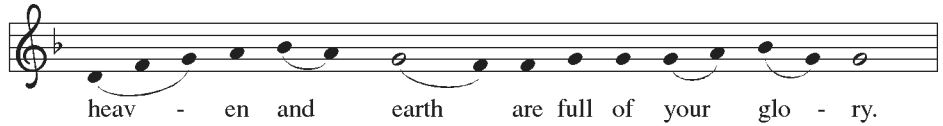
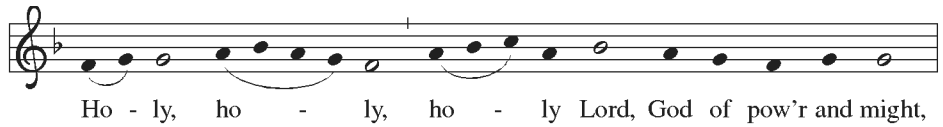
PROPER PREFACE

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:

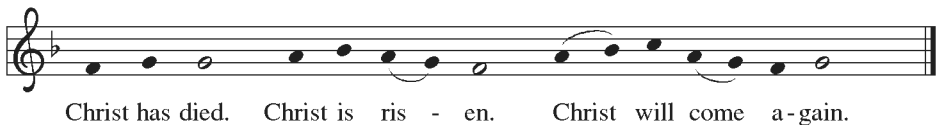
SANCTUS



During the Words of Institution, the bread and wine are elevated for the congregation to revere and adore Christ's presence in our midst.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting...
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit...

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking...

burning with justice, peace, and love.

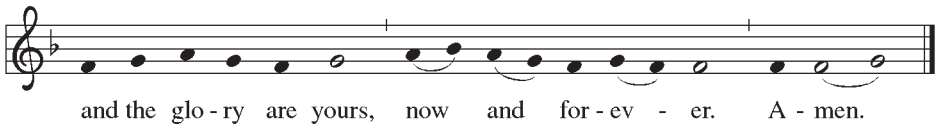
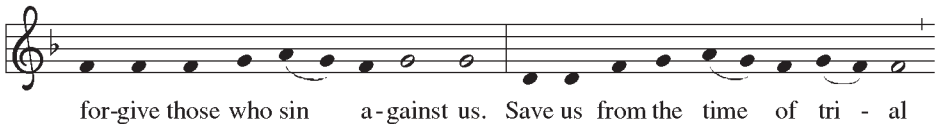
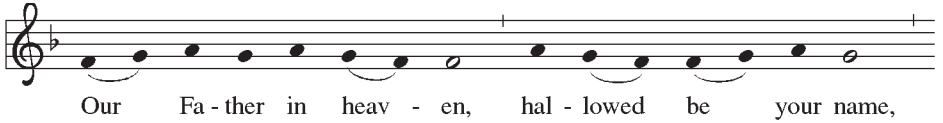
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones...
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

The Glory of These Forty Days

J. Klug

David Himes, clarinet

*Please stand in body
or spirit.*

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us
and made us new. Send us now to
set tables of love and grace in our
communities, that your liberating
love might nourish the world

into freedom, in the name of the
crucified one, Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
† bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*As a sign of God's
blessing, you may
make the sign
of the cross.*

SENDING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

Text: Synesius
of Cyrene
375-430;
tr. Allen W. Chatfield,
1808-1896, alt.

Music:
SOUTHWELL
W. Daman,
The Psalms of David,
1579, alt.

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1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

*In keeping with Lent's contemplative and penitential nature,
we leave the sanctuary in silence.*

You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for prayer and meditation.

JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING
AFTERNOON OF MUSIC



The Susquehanna University Choir
Dr. Amy Vorhees, director

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD AT 4:00 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER
ASSISTING MINISTER
CANTOR
LECTOR
COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Pr. Hans E. Becklin
Dcs. Deborah Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Virginia Biniek
Donna Osborne

USHERS
MEDIA TEAM
ALTAR GUILD
WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jennifer Mazur, Amy Reinsel
Matt Althouse, Jennifer Mellen
Michael Faust, Linda Grim,
Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov, Doris Stobel
Program Staff

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SATURDAY, MARCH 8

9:00 AM

VESTRY WORKSHOP

3:00 PM

WBMD YOUTH LENTEN LOCK IN
All Saints Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME- Classroom #4

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House
COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 10

OFFICE CLOSED & PARKING LOT UNACCESSIBLE

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING - Remote

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK STUDY - Hintz Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

12:05 PM

MID-WEEK CHAPEL WORSHIP

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Hintz Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME- Classroom #4

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House
COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection.

Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.

