

GATHERING

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross/Jesus Is All the World Medley arr. Charity Book Putnam
Christy Perkey, pianist

WELCOME

Heather Harriss

Holy Spirit, who inspired Moses, Mary Magdalene, and Matthew, inspire us as we walk through Lent.
Amen.

PRELUDE

In the Garden

arr. Jan Sanborn

†GREETING

We gather together to worship God, the Shepherd of our souls.
The one who has created us, who sustains us, who redeems us,
who walks beside us in good times and bad, and who calls us to follow.
This is our God!
Let's worship God together!¹

†HYMN NO. 545

*The Church's One Foundation*²

AURELIA

1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der we see her sore op - pressed,
4. Mid - toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
5. Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
till, with the vi - sion glo - rious, her long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

WORDS: Samuel L. Stone, 1877

†SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

†Matthew 18:21-35

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Describing God through Parables

Paul Purdue

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please register your attendance in the pew pad or with the QR code.

You may place your offering on the rail as you come forward to receive Communion, give online at belmontumc.org/give, text BELMONT to 73256, scan the giving QR code, contact Sara Christi (bookkeeper@belmontumc.org) to set up a bank draft, or mail your offering to the church, Box 120098, Nashville, TN, 37212.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The celebrant gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues the thanksgiving.

The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled, and the celebrant concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The celebrant invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

*You are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer in your native tongue and address God with names that speak to your heart: "Our Creator", "Holy Parent", or other titles that honor God's love, presence, and goodness.

BREAKING THE BREAD – SHARING THE CUP

As we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, everyone is invited.

Were You There?

Phillip Keveren

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

You have been forgiven, now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing touch.
Bring peace and hope to others, sharing God's love with them.
Amen.³

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

arr. C. Perkey

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

Liturgy selected/written by Emma Bushong.

¹ Christine Longhurst

²Words: Samuel J. Stone; music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-729458. All rights reserved.

³Nancy C. Townley

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 19

For a digital version of this newsletter with color photos and live links, go to belmontumc.org/about/newsletter.

Speak out against the asylum ban with Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors

On February 23, the Biden administration announced plans for an asylum ban at the US-Mexico border. This policy is illegal and inhumane. Under U.S. law, asylum seekers have the right to seek protection regardless of how they arrived here. The proposed policy would deny that right to all but a few, forcing many to remain in countries where their lives are still in danger. The public has only 30 days to submit comments to the administration before they finalize the policy.

Today, from 9:00-10:30am, join Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors (TNJFON) and other community partners in the foyer to submit public comments, write to legislators, and create art protesting the asylum ban. TNJFON will also be here on Wednesday, March 22, from 5:00-7:00pm in the Community Center pre-event area. To learn more about the asylum ban and find other ways to get involved, go to qrco.de/NoAsylumBanTN.

Helen Ryde at Belmont UMC today

Belmonters for Inclusion is sponsoring a meeting with Helen Ryde today after worship. Helen, an organizer with Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), will share an update on RMN talk about what's going on with the United Methodist Church in the Southeast Jurisdiction. We will gather in room 124 at 11:45am. All are welcome!

Midweek meal for March 22

Our Midweek meal on Wednesday, March 22, will be provided by Pizza Perfect. The menu will be baked chicken alfredo ziti, baked chicken ziti, Caesar salad, and cookies. Reservations are due by 12:00pm on Tuesday, March 21, and payment is required via credit card upon registration in Realm. Prices are \$12 for youth and adults, and \$9 for children 12 and under. Go to belmontumc.org/midweek to make your reservation. Our programs that evening will be the continuation of *Observing Lent with the Wesleys* (6:00pm in Parker Hall) led by Gayle Sullivan and Pat Ward, and *Parenting with Mental Health in Mind* (6:00pm in room 124).

Congregational meeting next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 26, everyone is invited to a special “State of Our Church” presentation in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30am worship service. This gathering will only take about 30 minutes and will review the many ways we are supporting Belmont UMC through our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Louis Jordan, John Pearce, Kim Sheehan, and Pastor Paul will present valuable information and reflections on our present state, as well as future challenges. Please plan to attend.

Photo backdrops available first 4 Sundays in April

When is the last time your family got dressed up or a picture? When’s the last time you got a picture of yourself that wasn’t a selfie? On Sundays April 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 9:00-10:15am, you will have the opportunity to accomplish all three! On Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and the following two Sundays, Belmont UMC will provide backdrops for individuals, couples, groups, and families to use for getting their picture taken. On Easter Sunday, back drops will be in the Community Center; on the other Sundays they will be in the Iris Room. Volunteers will be on hand to take a picture for you and, as a bonus and with your permission, church staff will also add your photo to Realm, our online directory. They’ll also be happy to take a photo on your personal phone for you. Wear your favorite outfit, casual or dressy, Easter bonnet or ball cap, and let us take your picture!

Parenting with Mental Health in Mind

Belmont UMC’s Children’s and Youth Ministries are teaming up to provide a parent workshop on Parenting with Mental Health in Mind. This will be a one-time workshop this Wednesday, March 22, from 6:00-7:00pm in room 124. Go to belmontumc.org/parenting to learn more.

NOAH listening campaign

Since 2014, Belmont UMC (along with 68 other congregations) has been working together in Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH) to bring about meaningful changes in our city. Our priorities have been affordable housing, criminal justice, education, integrated voter engagement, economic equity, and jobs. Belmonsters have a chance to shape priorities and be a real part of making Nashville the city that we want it to be. Belmont UMC members who are active with NOAH will be holding listening sessions with individuals and groups who want to share their hopes and dreams for our city and its people.

If you or your group would like to participate, please reach out to Pastor Ingrid (ingrid@belmontumc.org) by Sunday, April 2. We look forward to listening, learning, and working together for our community. To learn more about NOAH, go to noahn.org.

Join us for a hike!

On Saturday, April 15, Belmonsters will gather at 10:30am at Harpeth River State Park to participate in a private hike to Mound Bottom led by a park guide. This hike is a follow up to information we began exploring when Cherokee activist Albert Bender joined us for our *Stories of the Land* program.

This event is free, but registration is required by Wednesday, April 12. For details or to sign up, go to belmontumc.org/hike.

Confirmation Retreat sign-ups open

In preparation for this year’s Confirmation Sunday, 7th and 8th graders will head to Lakeshore for a retreat March 31-April 1. Faith Friends are invited to join us Friday evening at 5:00pm in the Community Center, or on Saturday for our day of activities at Lakeshore.

Registration is open on Realm. The cost for students is \$75; Saturday-only registration for Faith Friends is \$20. Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact Emma Bushong (emma@belmontumc.org).

Palm Sunday parade

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday, and Belmont UMC’s children will welcome Jesus with a parade. They will let Hillsboro Village and the congregation know that Jesus is coming through singing and waving palm branches.

Children’s choirs will gather at 10:00am on the second floor to robe and warm up, and then we will gather under the tent outside at 10:20am to receive palm branches. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! For details, go to belmontumc.org/palm-sunday-parade.

Baptisms and new members

Remi Jane Balfour, daughter of Michelle and Adam Balfour, sister of Stella, Felix, and Lachlan, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 12, 2023. Remi was born March 5, 2021.

Mary Katherine Carle, daughter of Kat and Christian Carle, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on March 12, 2023. Mary Katherine was born September 19, 2021.

Belmont UMC welcomes new members Kat and Christian Carle who joined Belmont UMC on March 12, 2023.

THIS WEEK AT BELMONT UMC

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

8:10am Worship with Communion, chapel/Facebook live
8:45am Children's Chimes, 226
9:00am TNJFON asylum ban letter-writing, foyer
9:15am Matthew book club with Pastor Paul, Iris Room
9:15am Adult, youth, and children's Sunday school, various rooms
11:30am Worship, sanctuary/Facebook live
11:45am Belmonters for Inclusion gathering with Helen Ryde, 124
1:30pm Carillon Ringers rehearsal, 226
3:30pm Wesley Ringer rehearsal, 226
4:30pm Open Door Singers rehearsal, choir room
5:30pm United Methodist Youth, Community Center

MONDAY, MARCH 20

2:00pm ENCORE Ministry Team, 120
6:00pm Finance Committee, Zoom

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:00pm Staff Parish Relations Committee, Zoom

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

10:00am Lectio Divina, Zoom
4:00pm Connect group, 120
5:00pm Wednesday night meal, Community Center
5:00pm TNJFON asylum ban letter-writing, Community Center pre-event area
6:00pm Parenting with Mental Health in Mind, 124
6:00pm Observing Lent with the Wesleys, Parker Hall
6:00pm Adult connection space, Iris Room
6:00pm Gentle yoga, Zoom
6:00pm Youth midweek, 3rd floor
6:00pm Children's Choirs, Faith Finders hall
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, choir room

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

8:00am Centering Prayer, 223/Zoom
1:00pm Celebration Ringers rehearsal, 226

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

8:10am Worship with Communion, chapel/Facebook live
8:45am Children's Chimes, 226
9:15am Matthew book club with Pastor Paul, Iris Room
9:15am Adult, youth, and children's Sunday school, various rooms
10:30am Worship, sanctuary/Facebook live
11:30am State of Our Church congregational meeting, sanctuary
12:00pm Belmonters for Inclusion, 124
12:30pm Pre-teen pizza and bowling @ Donelson Strike and Spare
1:30pm Carillon Ringers rehearsal, 226
3:30pm Wesley Ringer rehearsal, 226
4:30pm Open Door Singers rehearsal, choir room
5:30pm United Methodist Youth, Community Center

Want more news and announcements?

Email angie@belmontumc.org to sign up for our weekly “Upcoming Events” and “Belmont News” emails.

Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

PROGRAM STAFF

- Paul Purdue, Senior Pastor paul@belmontumc.org
- Heather Harriss, Pastor of Senior Adults/Congregational Care heather@belmontumc.org
- Kate Fields, Pastor of Children’s Ministry/Discipleship kate@belmontumc.org
- Gayle Sullivan, Director of Music Ministries sullivan@belmontumc.org
- Amy Cooper, Director of Children’s Music Ministry amy@belmontumc.org
- Darren Mayberry Wright, Pastor of Youth/Young Adults darren@belmontumc.org
- Ingrid McIntyre, Pastor in Residence for Community Engagement ingrid@belmontumc.org
- Sandy Sakarapanee, Pastor of Golden Triangle Fellowship nithet@hotmail.com

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God’s image. We commit to Jesus’ example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective.

Please scan here to give:



Please register your attendance here:



**Want to get involved?
Scan to learn more:**

