

MARCH 16, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME

Heather Harriss

CENTERING PRAYER

**This Lenten season, tune us to your wisdom, Oh God.
Unroot within us individualism. Plant us in love for the Wonderful Whole.
Turn our faces towards radical solidarity. Bolster our spiritual fortitude.
Connect us to pleasure and play. Join our hearts together this day in this place. Amen.¹**

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Amanda Dembiec, piano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Come as you are.

**If you have deep faith or your faith has run dry,
if you know every scripture or none at all,
if you have calloused hands and live your faith through good works,
or if you kneel at God's feet, with a million hungry questions,
come as you are.**

This is God's house.

None are turned away.

All are welcome here.²

†HYMN NO. 152

I Sing the Almighty Power of God

FOREST GREEN

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Grace, we long to do the "right" thing.
We long to make the "right" choice.
We long to stand on the "right" side of the dividing line.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us.
In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.
Show us how to hold our heart's desire for perfection loosely.
Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.
For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way. Amen.²**

(silent reflection)

†ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Faithful friends, God knows our hearts.

When we mean well and lose our way, God knows.

When we try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When we long to be close to God and doubt our worth, God knows.

We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven. We have been sent to serve.

This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

†PASSING THE PEACE

†GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:38-42

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Everything Between Faith and Works

Paul Purdue

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a Christ who teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are.

We believe in a Christ who invites us to use our gifts for good
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.

We believe in a Christ who understands our anxieties and is gentle with our concerns.

And we believe in a Christ who looks at us with undiluted love.

The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners, but we know love has no limit.

So with God's help, may we nurture our faith and do good work. Amen.²

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

BREAKING THE BREAD - SHARING THE CUP

*As we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion, everyone is invited. Offering may be placed on the Communion rail.
A gluten-free option is available; please ask your server.*

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

Go in the footsteps of Jesus, devoted to the work of love.
Go in the mystery of the Spirit, surprised by the unfoldings of freedom.
Go protected by God—our hope and our guide.
Amen.¹

†You are invited to stand as you are able.

The sparse arrangement of twigs and branches represents the barrenness of the forty days of Lent,
the season of preparation for Easter.

Liturgy selected by Matthew Webb.

¹Molly Bolton for *enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters*, March 16, 2025

²Sarah Are Speed for A Sanctified Art, *Everything in Between: Words for Worship*, March 16, 2025

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Our staff is always ready to assist you!

Go to belmontumc.org/staff for contact information.

PROGRAM STAFF

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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.

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