

# MORNING WORSHIP

March 8, 2026

Half past Ten O' Clock

## Third Sunday in Lent

*When the organ begins, please prepare for worship through silent prayer and meditation.  
Following the service, greet one another with joy and affection!*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

+WELCOME AND NOTICES

PRELUDE *Take up your Cross, the Saviour said* arr. Wilbur Held

CHORAL INTROIT "O God, You Are My God Alone" GRATUS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, You are our God, at dawn we seek You. Our souls thirst for You in a dry and weary land.

**People: Here in Your sanctuary we behold Your power and glory.  
Your steadfast love is better than life and our lips will praise You.**

Leader: Because You are our help, we sing in the shadow of Your wings.

**People: We cling to You; Your right hand upholds us. So we lift our hands in joy,  
and we will praise You for as long as we live.**

+\*HYMN 409 "God Is Here!" ABBOT'S LEIGH

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Romans 5

**Holy and righteous God, You have set us right by faith and given us peace through Christ, yet we do not live as people of peace. We have access to Your grace, but step back in fear and delusions of self-sufficiency. We boast in our achievement instead of hoping in Your glory. We avoid suffering at all cost, and in our weakness we doubt Your purpose. You tell us suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope, but we grow impatient in trial and cynical in disappointment. Forgive us, O God. Reconcile us again to You. Let Your Spirit restore in us a living hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON Romans 5

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God proves His love for us in this: while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Having been reconciled through the death of God's beloved Son, we are saved by His life.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

\*HYMN 816 (verses 1 and 3) "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Immediately following the Message for Young Disciples, the congregation will sing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me" as children age five through second grade are invited to Children's Worship. (seated)*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 63, pew Bible p. 516

SERMON

“Our Thirsty Souls”

Lori Archer Raible

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

*This confession draws from four different creeds in PCUSA Book of Confessions; The Heidelberg Catechism, particularly Q&A 1 pertaining to God’s providence, The Westminster Confession regarding God’s sovereign governance over all things, The Scots Confession referencing Christ’s lordship and God’s preservation of the church amid turmoil, and The Confession of 1967 claiming God’s reconciliation, justice, and peace in a fractured world.*

**We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth,  
whose sovereign love upholds a world torn by war, injustice, and fear.  
We trust in Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Lord of history,  
who stands with the suffering, judges oppression, and blesses the poor and peacemakers.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who sustains the church in troubled times, strengthens us to resist evil,  
and sends us to work for justice until  
God’s promised reign of righteousness and peace is made complete.  
In life and in death, we belong to God. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Sanctus”

Carlos Simon

\*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**We have known what it is to thirst in a dry land, to hunger for what will truly satisfy. Take these gifts and turn them toward Your abundance. Plant them in the soil of Your promise, where deserts bloom, swords are beaten into plowshares, and Your peaceable kingdom rises like dawn. Lead us toward that land of milk and honey by Your steady mercy until every hunger is filled, and every thirst is quenched. Amen.**

## **BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN 696

“O God, You Are My God Alone”

RESIGNATION

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Take My Life”

HENDON

\*POSTLUDE

*How Firm a Foundation*

arr. David Cherwein

\*Those who are able please stand.

+Ushers may seat late worshipers.

## SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES ALL WHO VISIT

Selwyn Avenue is glad you are with us this morning. We welcome all visitors, celebrating God's creativity in human diversity. We'd like to stay in touch with you! Please take a moment to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate. Please ask an usher if you need help locating the nursery, restrooms, changing tables, or large print hymnals.

Membership is by one of three paths: 1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ (for those who have never been part of a Christian church); 2) re-affirmation of faith (for those who formerly were part of a congregation but have not been involved in recent times - for example, you were baptized and/or confirmed but moved and never engaged with a new congregation); or 3) transfer of membership from another congregation (your membership is with another church). Prospective members are invited to participate in Orientation Classes, which are scheduled several times a year, and are a wonderful way to meet others and learn about our church and all the opportunities here. We stand ready to be in communication with you about your particular situation.

**WORSHIP BAGS FOR 4 YRS. - 5TH GRADE** Age-appropriate activities for readers and non-readers to encourage their participation in following along in worship are available in the narthex. Please return the bag to the basket after worship.

<b>SAPC STAFF INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
Pastor	Lori Archer Raible	lorir@selwynpres.org
Associate Pastor for CEF/Congregational Life	Margo Fraga	margor@selwynpres.org
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Director of Children and Families	Karley Wilke-Nadler	karleywn@gmail.com
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Director of Music	Fred Spano	fps7363@gmail.com
Organist	Gay Pappin	gpappin@gmail.com
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Weekend Facilities	Dwight Jones	djones8345@aol.com
Director of Child Development Center	Beth Sharpe	bsharpe@selwynprescdc.com
Resident Pastor at QHPC	Allyson Anderson	allyson.qhpc@gmail.com
<b>SAPC SESSION</b>		
<b>Class of 2026</b>	<b>Class of 2027</b>	<b>Class of 2028</b>
Rich Bonnell, Lori Burbank, Tate Hackman, Marybet Hudson, Todd Muldrew, Walker Owens, Adam Piacentino, Denise Pineno, Evan Sauda, Elizabeth Stearns, Caroline Thompson, Tina Weinberg; Youth Elder-Sarah Pineno	Mike Bellamy, Michelle Bentley, Lee Bobbitt, Jeremy Caskey, Mike DeAmicis, Zach Houston, Catherine Miller, Sally Moore, Becky Muth, Cathy Sheely, Janet Stephens, Karey Tom	Mike Bolewitz, Katie Cumbus, Lindsay Haynie, Sebastian Marth, Roger Mills, Martha Rand, Erin Salzlein, Rebecca Thompson, Ted Zimmer