

ORDER OF WORSHIP - MARCH 3, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Bishop Al Gwinn

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

PRELUDE

Sweet Hour of Prayer
arr. Iouri Grichetchkine

Dr. James Humlong

INTROIT

Be Still and Know
John Bell

Chancel Choir

SILENT PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Joan Wooden

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am...

Be still and know...

Be still...

Be...

In the safety of this sacred space, let us be embraced by God's holy presence.

**In awe and wonder, let us offer our praise and adoration to God,
who meets us here and loves us unconditionally.**

*HYMN 77

How Great Thou Art

*A MODERN AFFIRMATION

Where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is the one true church, apostolic and universal,
whose holy faith let us now declare:

**We believe in God the Father,
infinite in wisdom, power and love,
whose mercy is over all his works,
and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of man,
the gift of the Father's unfailing grace,
the ground of our hope,
and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
as the divine presence in our lives,
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance
of the truth of Christ,
and find strength and help in time of need.**

We believe that this faith should manifest itself
in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord,
to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bishop Al Gwinn

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Joan Wooden

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,
in these perplexing days we ask
that you would increase our faith;
that you would enlarge our capacity to forgive;
that you would guide our stumbling feet
in the way that leads to life.
Forgive us when we are tempted to give up,
and sustain us in the journey toward the cross.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

SILENT PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The One who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.
In the name of Jesus Christ you are being redeemed.
Glory to God. Amen.

HYMN 472

stanza 1

Near to the Heart of God

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dennis Burrows

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

My Song in the Night
arr. Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
come to us with thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord in affliction I call,
my comfort by day and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from thee,
or cry in the desert, thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight.
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

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***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF BLESSING**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Dr. Douglas Herman

Luke 18: 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Bishop Al Gwinn

"The Discipline of Prayer"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***HYMN 529**

How Firm a Foundation

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Dr. James Humlong

Sortie in d minor

George Blake

This morning's liturgy:

Prayer of Confession – From *Prayers and Liturgies of Confession and Assurance*
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