

# *Third Sunday in Lent*

## *March 23, 2025*

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,  
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you. 
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine and non-alcoholic white grape juice are both offered in each communion tray.

*If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL**

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



**SERVING TODAY**

- Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Mark Olsen
- Worship Leader ..... Vicar Christine Pelfrey
- Assisting Minister..... Lynn Sherman
- Reader.....Joyce Christianson
- Communion Preparers..... Marjorie Johnson and Ellen Anderson
- Director of Music ..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

**EMANUEL MUSICIANS**

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Anna VanDeBerg, Pastor Nancy Wright

**AV TECHNICIANS**

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

*Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.*

***Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone***

## INTRODUCTION

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

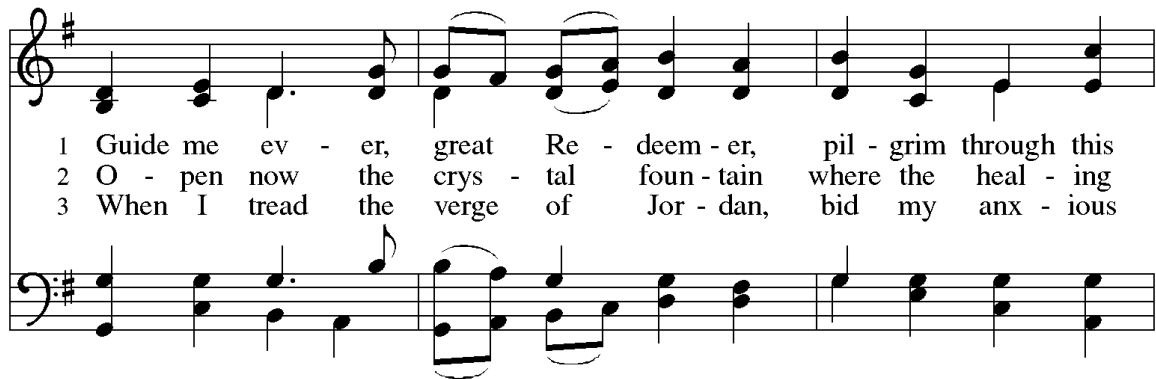
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate One,

C: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

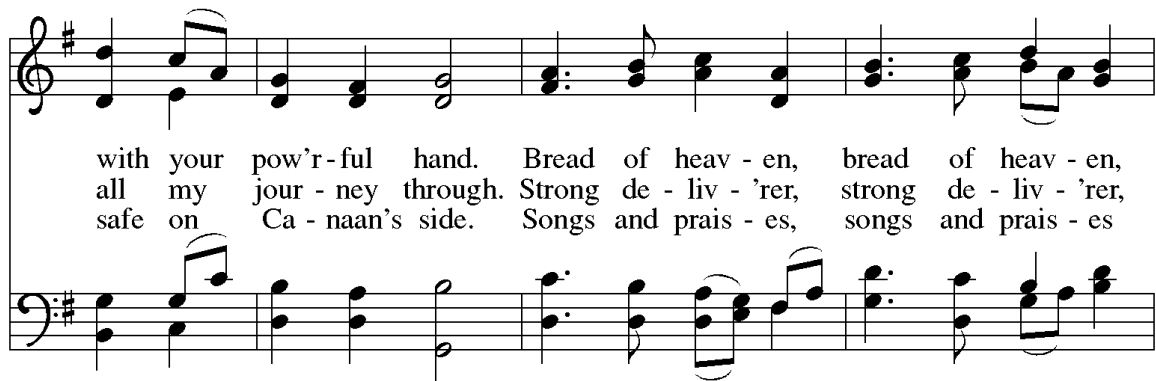
C: **Amen.**



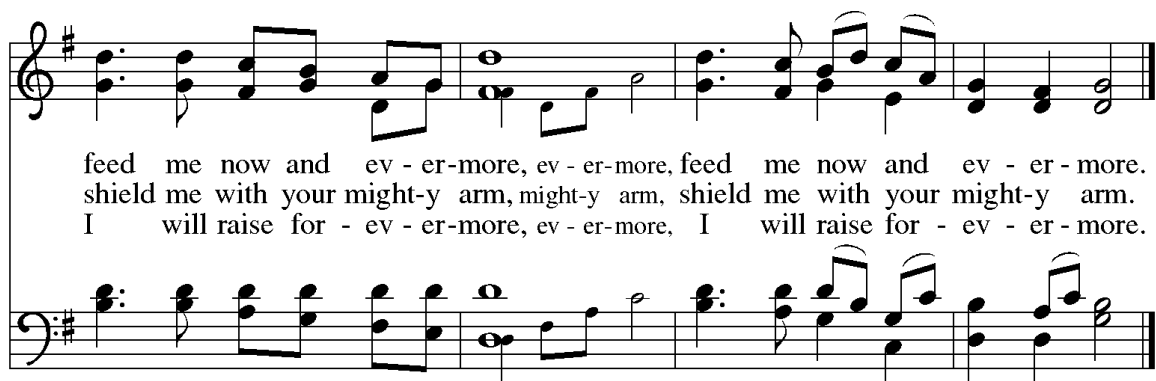
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

Verse 1, 3 Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son.  
Verse 2 Chris - te e - le-i - son. Chris - te e - le-i - son.

Ky - ri-e e - le-i - son. Ky - ri-e e - le - i-son.  
Chris - te e - le-i - son. Chris - te e - le - i-son.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Eternal God,

C: **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The children are now dismissed for Sunday School.*

## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13**

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat

and drink, and they rose up to play.”<sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.<sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.<sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.<sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.<sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Re - turn to the Lord your God, re -

3  
turn to the Lord your God who is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,

6  
slow to an - ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9**

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

L: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Vicar Christine Pelfrey

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

When We Are Tested

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.



## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:*

A: God in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

## **\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*We offer each other a sign of God's peace.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*Wondrous Love*

Parker Shaw

Emanuel Choir

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,  
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan the code using your  
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Gracious Provider,

C: **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.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, \_\_\_ God of pow'r, \_\_\_ God of  
might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glay, \_\_\_ Ho - san-na  
in \_\_\_ the high - est! Blest is he \_\_\_ who \_\_\_ comes \_\_\_ in the  
name \_\_\_ of the Lord. \_\_\_ Ho - san - - - na! \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Ho - san-na in \_\_\_ the high - - - est! \_\_\_

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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 and ever. Amen.**

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**All Are Welcome at the Table!**

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

***This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.***

*Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle  
and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.*

*The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once  
you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to  
receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to  
receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.*

### \*LAMB OF GOD

Christ, thou Lamb of God, who takes a-way the  
sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. grant us your peace.

The musical notation is written on two staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, including a first ending (marked '1, 2') and a second ending (marked '3').

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

### **\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** Generous Host,

**C:** **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**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**You Are the Rock of My Salvation**

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

You are the rock of my sal - va - tion,  
you are the strength of my life. You are my hope and my in -  
- spi - ra - tion; Lord, un - to you will I cry. I be -  
lieve in you, be - lieve in you, for your  
faith - ful love to me. You have been my help in  
time of need; Lord, un - to you will I cleave.  
You are the rock of my sal - va - tion,  
you are the strength of my life.

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



**The Emanuel Food Pantry** serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. For March, we are taking a special Ramadan collection of dates, lentils, chickpeas, basmati rice, olive oil, flour, and sugar.

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### BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | [adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org)



**Serve as Assisting Minister**  
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes  
(860) 212-5492



**Assist with Communion**  
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald  
[valeriexyz@cox.net](mailto:valeriexyz@cox.net)  
(860) 965-6936



**Participate in Music**  
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Scan QR for more information

**Read the Lessons**  
Contact Lynn Sherman  
[lynnsherman480@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsherman480@gmail.com)  
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

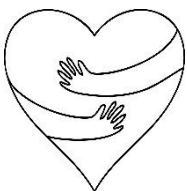


**Host Coffee Hour**  
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at [moniquegray400@gmail.com](mailto:moniquegray400@gmail.com).



**Sponsor Altar Flowers** in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.

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**Prayer Shawls** are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

*Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.*

Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau † Brittany Milano-Martinez

*Homebound:* Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

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[www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org) | [www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford](http://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)



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Senior Pastor—extension 1

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Education Coordinator

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**Rachel Blank, Natalie Fulmer, and**

**Maeghan O’Laughlin**

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**Rachid Chelali**

Sexton

**Naomi Ngoma**

Community Life & Outreach—extension 3

[Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org)

**Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah**

HIU Interns 2024-2025

# MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

March 12, 19, and 26

April 2 and 9



We will gather for worship at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent (March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9) for faith-nurturing worship and conversation. For our worship we will be using Holden Evening Prayer as the setting for a Midweek Lenten Worship Series entitled: **"Beneath the Cross of Jesus."**

We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Based on the hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus" (ELW 338), through this midweek Lenten series we will explore what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. During our time of worship each week we will reflect together on the readings and weekly themes by engaging in conversation and discussion led by Pastor Mark and Vicar Christine. *Thought provoking discussion questions and the readings for each Wednesday gathering will be shared in a supplemental issue of the Emanuel News each week.* Please join us for these midweek times of worship as you are able. **All are welcome!**