

March 30, 2025

**Prelude and Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: With all that is within us, let us bless God.

**People: Who forgives all our sins, whose healing presence sustains us.**

Leader: Who lifts us up from rock bottom, who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

**ALL: With all that is within us, let us give praise and thanks to God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #42: "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Invitation and Prayer of Confession**

Let us confess our need for God and our failures to follow Christ's way of love.

**In this maze of life, we have often run headlong in any direction which offers a faint glimpse of hope. We rush by others in our hurry to find our own way. We seldom stop to consider our beginning in your gift of life, and our future in your gift of new life. Forgive our aimless thinking, doing, and speaking.**

**In this maze of life, we sometimes sit in a corner alone and unable to speak or act because we have lost all hope, we become encased in ourselves, consuming our inner life and becoming empty. Forgive our blindness in your presence as our Creator, as our Companion, and as the One who walked this way from birth through death to a resurrected life. Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace**

However far we wander, God is always ready to receive us, to enfold us in love and grace. In the name of Jesus, we are a forgiven people.

**Scripture:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Carla Crompton

**Anthem:** God So Loved the World, by John Stainer

**Time With Young Disciples**

## Collect

**Nourish us, O God, with your word of life. Bring us to our senses so your purposes might be apparent to us. Take away both the uncertainty and the arrogance in our views of ourselves. We would rejoice with all who are finding new life. Grant that we may hear your music and be freed to join in the dancing. Amen.**

**Sermon:** "Letting Go"

**\*Hymn #549:** "Bless God, O My Soul"

**The Community at Prayer** (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer, choosing to use debts/debtors, or trespass/trespases, or sins/sinners as is familiar to you*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

## Prayer Response

### Invitation to the Offering

*(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website at <https://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/>)*

## Offertory

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the life, of love, of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #547:** "Amazing Grace"

### \*Commissioning and Blessing

### \*Choral Response

### \*Postlude

## Announcements

### **During Lent**

We will be including the Confession of Sin and the Assurance of Grace as a part of our Sunday morning liturgy. Lent allows us to admit that we don't always get things right and that we are in need of forgiveness.

### **Agape Meals**

Join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:15pm from March 12 – April 9. Please sign up to help out or bring soup and salad here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094BA4AB2AA2FD0-55385104-gccagape#/>

Wednesday March 12  
Wednesday March 19  
Wednesday March 26  
Wednesday April 2  
Wednesday April 9

### **One Great Hour of Sharing—today!**

One Great Hour of Sharing is this Sunday. This is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries. Offerings may also be made at <https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation>.

### **CROP Hunger Walk May 4 and Franklin's Fundraiser April 8**

Please save the date for the 2025 Hyattsville CROP Hunger Walk: 1pm Sunday, May 4. Funds raised will go 25% to Help by Phone, which stocks 4 local food pantries, and 75% to Church World Service (CWS), which expects to be focusing CROP Walk funds on refugee assistance this year.

Also, on Tuesday, April 8, Franklins Restaurant, Brewery, and General Store will contribute a portion of sales to CROP Walk expenses. Be sure to let the server or cashier know that you are with the Hyattsville CROP Walk.

Donation envelopes are available for pick-up from Naomi Littlefield (202) 246-1072. If you register online, please use this web address to join our church team (or email Naomi at [littlefieldnaomi@gmail.com](mailto:littlefieldnaomi@gmail.com) and ask her to send this to you as a link): <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/greenbelt-community-church-greenbelt-md>

## **From the Board of Missions**

Matthew 25: 31-40 "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." In response to the plight of refugees and immigrants exacerbated by recent changes to government programs, the Board of Missions has designated the Church's Special Missions donations for January through March to immigrant and refugee assistance. Donations will be split between the CWS Immigrant and Refugee Fund and the Immigrant and Refugee Outreach Center which supports our new friends and neighbors.

## **Techies Needed**

We could use some help with running the Zoom broadcasts on Sunday mornings and with keeping the church's website updated. Training is available, but candidates should have at least basic computer skills. Zoom managers need to arrive at church around 9:45-10:00 to set up the Zoom broadcast and admit participants to the "meeting". Website editors can work from home at their convenience and would likely spend about an hour per week. If interested, please contact the office ([office@greenbeltucc.org](mailto:office@greenbeltucc.org)) or Carol Bellamy ([cabellamy56@gmail.com](mailto:cabellamy56@gmail.com)).

## **Greenbelt's Curbside Compost Program**

To help care for creation, please consider joining the last phase (6 months) of Greenbelt's curbside food waste collection pilot for City residents. 30 more households, or combined households, are needed to complete this pilot. For more information on this program, please visit <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt/>. Carol Griffith is a participant in the pilot and can answer questions. Or you can ask me, Jane Young, at [gccjane@aol.com](mailto:gccjane@aol.com).

## **Zoom Lectionary Bible Study**

The Lectionary Readings for Bible Study on Tuesday April 1 and Sunday April 6 are: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; and John 12:1-8.

## **Prayer List**

Judy D.; Deb & Bill S.; Rhonda; Butch N.; Beth N.; Christine S.; Jim G.; Ken C.; Jim T.; Gwen V.; Joyce P.; Marsha & Larry V.; Wei-Der's mother; Wayne K.; Anne G.; Lisa (Suze's daughter); Betty C.; Todd S.; John M. (Bea's son, who is in the hospital with pneumonia and RSV); Gil L.; Leif Harris Breon-Albers (born this past Monday, mother and father and grandmother Susan B. are all doing well); all those who live in fear of losing their jobs; protection for all whose freedoms are being taken by the government; William & Phyllis S.; prayers for the SDA congregation; prayers for the Search Committee as they continue the search for a new pastor, and prayers for the person God is preparing to be our next pastor.

## **Agape Meal Devotions**

During Lent the Board of Worship will conduct short devotional discussions before each Agape meal. The Board has chosen as its guide, "The Hardest Part: hurt we carry, hope we find" published online by The Everything Happens Project. You can access or download the guide for free at the following link:

[https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/the-hardest-part/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-hardest-part/)

We will be using the group study guide as follows:

3/12/2025: Terrible & Beautiful (week 2 from the guide)

3/19/2025: Lament (week 3 from the guide)

3/26/2025: Imagination (week 4 from the guide)

4/2/2025: Wisdom (week 5 from the guide)

4/9/2025: Love (week 6 from the guide)

Each week includes scripture to read, discussion questions, and a blessing. Please note that downloading the guide is not necessary, we will provide all necessary materials for each week. The link above is for those who wish to preview the discussion topics or prefer a deeper dive into the subjects.

What is "The Hardest Part"? (from the introduction)

"Here's the hardest part: to be human is to carry the weight of our own mortality, and to be Christian means accepting Christ's mortality. We love the joy and triumph of Easter morning, but first, we have to sit with Good Friday, when God is on the losing team. Jesus, the one we look to for hope and healing, suffers and dies. His pain is real, just like ours. We can't rush past it. We can't skip to the good part, because it's through the deepest hurt that we begin to understand what it means to be fully human, fully broken.

We hope these lessons will give your group an opportunity to practice honesty, where we acknowledge how heavy the world can feel, but where, bit by bit, we might hold out hope for what might be possible.

Because when we do the hard part, something else happens; we get to the good part."

# EASTER LILIES

Yes! I'd like to help decorate the church this Easter by providing a lily for the chancel area.



The cost is \$17.00 per plant and lilies may be taken home after the service on Easter morning.

Number of Plants (@ \$17.00/plant) \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to have my lily dedicated

In **Memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

or

In **Honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this order along with payment in the offering plate. If you would like to pay by check, make it out GCC but please put LILIES in the memo line.

## March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2	3	4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 – 7:00pm	5 Ash Wednesday service 7:00pm Choir 7:30pm	6	7	8
9	10	11 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	12 Agape Meal 6:00-7:15pm Choir 7:30pm	13	14	15
16	17	18 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	19 Agape Meal 6:00-7:15pm Choir 7:30pm	20 Lunch w/Clara 11:30am Three Brothers	21	22
23 Indoor Work Day 12:30-2:30 Prayer Shawl Group	24	25 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	26 Agape Meal 6:00-7:15pm Choir 7:30pm	27	28	29
30	31					

## April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 1 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	2 Agape Meal 6:00-7:15pm Choir 7:30pm	3	4 Women's Retreat	5 Women's Retreat
6 Women's Retreat	7	8 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am Franklin's CROP WALK fundraiser	9 Agape Meal 6:00-7:15pm Choir 7:30pm	10 Lunch w/Clara 11:30am Three Brothers	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14	15 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	16 Choir 7:30pm	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter	21	22 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	23 Choir 7:30pm	24	25	26
27 Prayer Shawl Group	28	29 Bible Study (Zoom) 10:00am	30 Choir 7:30pm	May 1	2	3

