

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN - March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent



*In this season of Lent, Christ meets us in our need
and leads us toward life. This week, Christ meets us
in our blindness and leads us into light.*

Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.

Worship Leaders for March 15, 2026: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Todd German – Children’s Message: Cindy Bowers – Ushers: Pam Callahan, Grace Hochstetler, & Tyler Bowers – Tech: Todd German & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Betsy Kachmar & Cathy German – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude

Beneath the Cross of Jesus by Maker

Welcome

Call to Worship —

Come, people of God, and open your eyes to the work of the Lord.

We come seeking the light of Christ.

God sees not as we see.

God looks beyond appearances and sees the heart.

Christ comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world.

Let us worship the God who opens our eyes and leads us into life.

Opening Hymn #39 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Call to Confession —

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Because we trust in God’s mercy, we are free to confess our sins honestly. Let us come before God with humble hearts.

Prayer of Confession —

Gracious God, you see us more clearly than we see ourselves. Yet we confess that we often judge by outward appearances. We overlook those whom you call.

Time for silent confession

Assurance of Pardon —

Friends, hear the good news: The God who sees our hearts also offers us mercy and grace. In Jesus Christ, our eyes are opened, our sins are forgiven, and we are made new. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace and Love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Time for Music & Meditation

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: Holy God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we hear the Scriptures today, open our eyes to your truth. Help us to see as you see and to recognize your work in our lives and in the world. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hebrew Bible: Psalm 95

p.443

David Anointed as King

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” 11 Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Choir Anthem #288 “Spirit of the Living God”

Gospel – John 9:1-41

p.1661

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, 7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” 10 But they kept asking

him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does

listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Message

Learning to See

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Response #834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Gracious God, you are the light of the world, and nothing is hidden from your sight.

You see the needs of your people and hear the cries of your children.

We pray for your church throughout the world.

Open our eyes to your calling and strengthen us to follow faithfully.

We pray for leaders and communities everywhere.

Grant wisdom, compassion, and justice to those entrusted with responsibility.

We pray for those who struggle, those who are ill, and those who feel unseen or forgotten.

Shine your light into their lives and surround them with your healing presence.

We pray for our own congregation and for the ministry we share together.

Help us to see the gifts you have placed among us and to serve one another with love.

God of mercy, open our eyes to the needs of the world and make us instruments of your peace.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

God calls us to see the world with new eyes and to share in the work of Christ's love. The gifts we bring today are signs of our gratitude and our commitment to God's mission. Let us offer our gifts to the Lord with thankful hearts.

Offertory

How Deep the Father's Love for Us by Townsend

Doxology #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication –

Let us pray: **Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for your grace and love. Bless them and use them for the work of your church, that your light may shine in places of darkness and your hope may reach those in need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #663 “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Festal Fanfare by Scott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special Session Meeting: There will be a special Session Meeting following the service on March 22nd to discuss working with Wellspring on a Summer Day Camp.

Annual Lenten Study: Wednesdays through Lent, 5:30-6:30 PM. Fellowship at 5:00 PM. Bring your dinner and chat with the others present.

Grace’s Easter Egg Hunt Returns: We’re hosting another Easter event for our friends and community. The fun will be on April 4th, at 10:00 AM. We are currently looking for candy donations (there’s a bin in the narthex) and volunteers. Find Todd for more information.

Congregational Care Network: We’re partnering with IU Health in a new program to support the individuals in our community who are homebound. Through this ministry, volunteers will make weekly one-hour phone calls or check-ins to offer companionship and encouragement. It’s a simple commitment that can make a meaningful difference in someone’s week. There will be a brief informational meeting after the service on March 29th during the fellowship hour. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact a member of the MOE Committee or Pastor Sandy for more information.

Birthdays

Ann Bausser - March 15

Franklin James Lehman - March 19

Diana Eller - March 22

Anniversaries

Jeffrey & Lauren Widmann

March 21, 1999

Worship Volunteers for March 22, 2026

Lay Leader - Cathy German

Children's Message - Katie Lochry

Ushers - Pam Callahan, Grace

Hochstetler, & Tyler Bowers

Technology - Todd German & Jen

Mahoney

Counters - Betsy Kachmar

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

To connect to our worship services on Zoom, follow these instructions to watch or listen. You can connect at 10:15 for fellowship; the service starts at 10:30.

Option 1: Automatically Join the Meeting

Follow the link in the email sent every week. This is by far the easiest way to connect to the live video.

Option 2: Manually Join the Meeting

You can download Zoom from <https://www.zoom.us>.

After you have installed the program/app, click on "Join" and enter this information:

Meeting ID: 9712063468 **Password:** 030414

Option 3: Call in to Listen (Audio Only)

On Sunday Morning, you can call to listen to the service. After you call, it will ask you to enter the Meeting ID and Password Below:

Phone Number: (301) 715-8592 **Meeting ID:** 9712063468

Password: 030414

39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

This black gospel song, like much hymnody, sprang out of the author's deep personal loss (the death of his wife and newborn son), yet it has brought solace to many. He thought his fingers were playing new music, but they unlocked a deep memory of a tune almost a century old.

TEXT: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

MUSIC: George N. Allen, 1844; arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938

Text and Music Arr. © 1938, ren. Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (admin. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.)

PRECIOUS LORD

6.6.9.D

663 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun your dai - ly
 2 Lord, I my vows to you re - new. Dis - perse my
 3 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all I de -

stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 sign or do or say, that all my powers, with

joy - ful rise to pay your morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 thought and will, and with your - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in your sole glo - ry may u - nite.

These three stanzas (of the original fifteen) convey the essence of the morning hymn that was paired with "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (no. 675) in the daily devotions of the boys at Winchester College. This tune was later composed especially for these words.

TEXT: Thomas Kern, 1695, alt.

MUSIC: François Hippolyte Barthélémon, 1785; harm. *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*, 1917

MORNING HYMN
 LM