

Third Sunday of Lent - March 3, 2024
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 – 814.868.8685

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com

Coordinator of Music – Sheryl Williams



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS – Thank you to Howard Lyon for substituting as organist/pianist for Sheryl.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – ELW 533 *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

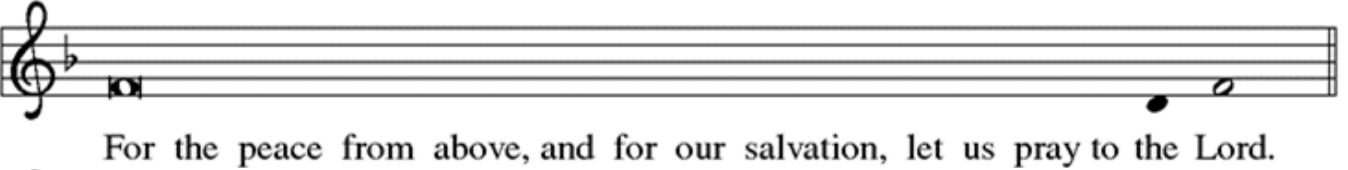
GREETING

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

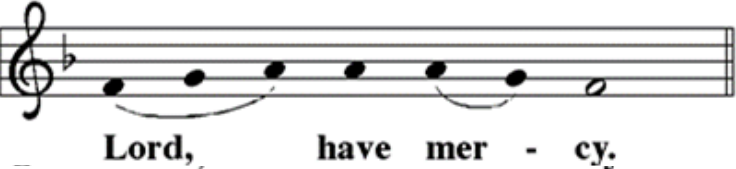
KYRIE



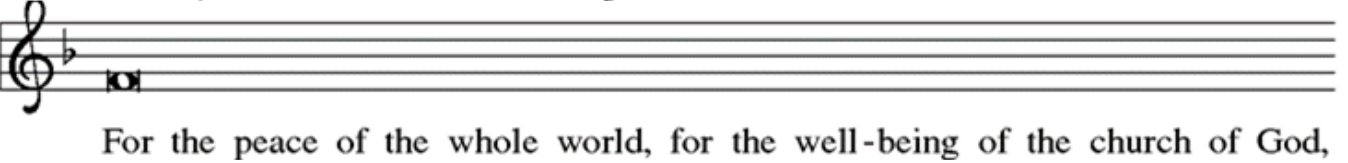
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



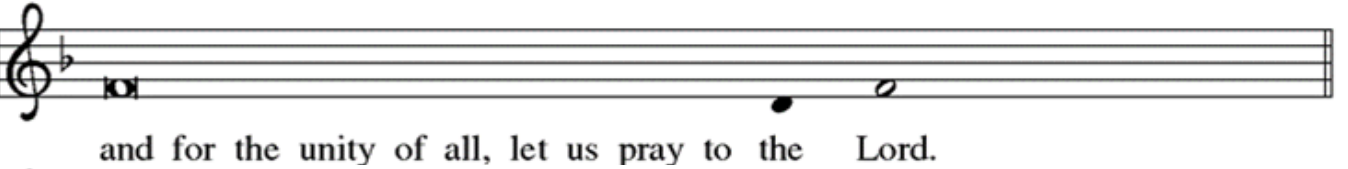
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



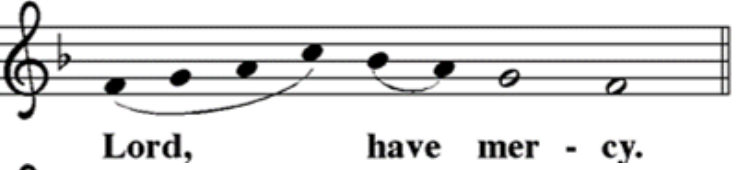
Lord, have mer - cy.



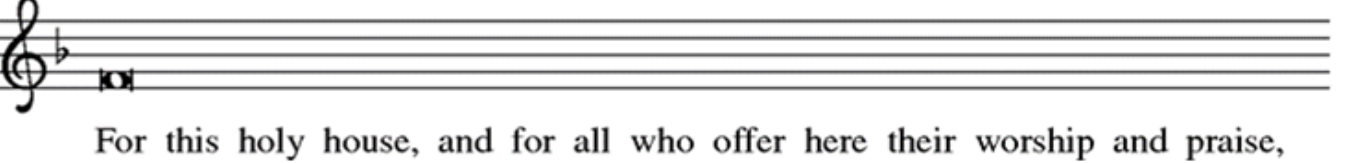
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



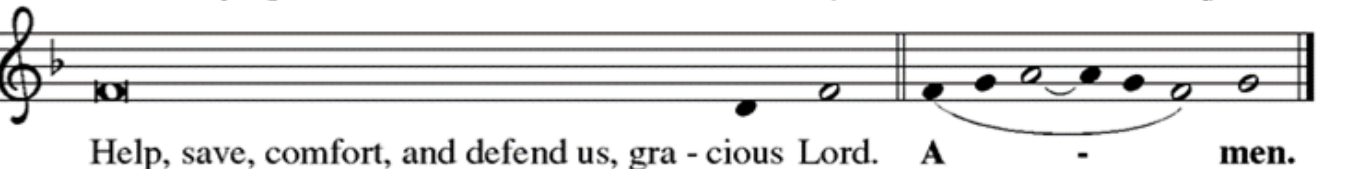
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 19**Sung Responsively Tone 9**

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, and the sky
proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to
the ends | of the world, where God has pitched a tent | for
the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and
runs about to the end of | it again; nothing is hidden from its |
burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to
the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine
gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get
dominion | over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a |
great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable | in your sight, O LORD, my strength and | my
redeemer.**


SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The gospel according to John, Chapter 2. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." **cont'd**

²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Please Stand

HYMN of DAY - ELW 823 *Praise the Lord! O Heavens*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are distraught, grieving or ill especially: Don, Sheryl, Stephanie, Ed & Jeanne, Vicki, Lori & Jerry, Trish, Ruth, Susan & Megan, Ed R. Damian & Marcia, Pastor Karen & Dave, Diana, Don & Skip, Tammy and Evelyn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

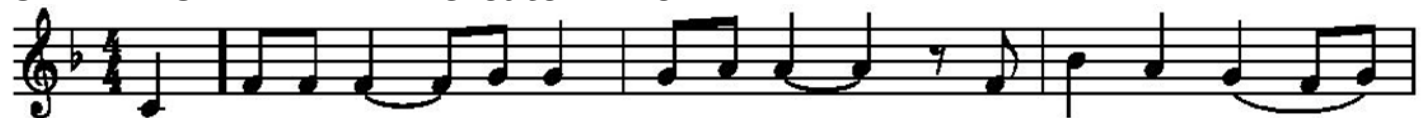
Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN - Create in Me



Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve ___



You; ___ Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might be re -

-newed. So fill ___ me and heal ___ me, and bring me _ back to _
 You. Cre - ate in me _____ a clean
 heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve _____ You.

OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray together. **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.
Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

LAMB of GOD



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'.

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS – Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;
Refrain
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

ELW 485 *I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 623 *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbor and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

Please Stand

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN – ELW 660 *Lift High the Cross*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES – March 3, 2024

ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

Please pray for: Don Holder, Sheryl Williams, her daughter Stephanie Volland and family, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Vicki Iannuccillo, Lori & Jerry Hart, Trish Cirillo, Ruth Hinkson, Susan & Megan Huff, Ed Randall, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Skip Kleckner, Diana Stoker, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Tammy Sharp McIntyre, and Evelyn Senger.

Sunday, March 3: Bible Study-10:45a.

Wednesday, March 6: Mid-week **Lenten worship @ 6:00p** following the **“Soup Supper” @ 5:30p.** A form to sign up to **bring soup and/or bread** is on a table in the narthex.

Sunday March 10: Bible Study-10:45a. Confirmation class, St. Paul’s 10:45a.

Easter Lilies/KAFP Easter Donations: The price for a plant is \$8.50. If you wish to place a plant on the altar for Easter Sunday, a form for ordering plant(s), **March 5**, last day, or donating to KAFP, last day **March 24**, is on a table in the narthex.

Saturday, March 23: The **Easter Flock** will be held in the church, **1-3p**, and **volunteers are needed** to help out (sign-up sheet in narthex) with activities: egg decorating, crafts, games and selling tickets for raffle baskets. **Donations of raffle baskets** or **monetary donations** for the event are greatly appreciated. Place your monetary **donations in an envelope** marked ‘raffle baskets’ or Easter Flock. **Raffle baskets** can be brought to the church during office hours or Sundays.

Palm Sunday, March 24: Children are needed for the **Palm Sunday presentation at 9:30a worship. Tentative rehearsals will be Saturday, **March 9 from 10:00-11:30, Saturday, March 23** approximately **3:15.** Ask your grandchildren/nieces/nephews or any child in your life to participate! If interested, please contact Pastor or Connie Kerr Vogt (ckerrvogt@gmail.com).**

The Little Free Library: is quite busy with books being exchanged, and food items taken. Individual servings of cereals and raisins, granola bars, and rice meals are most popular. Still needed are "inspirational bookmarks", with space to place an Abiding Hope Label, which are placed in each book. Please place "Little Library" donations (books, food) in the Heritage Room. All are welcome to use the library. Blessings -Connie Kerr-Vogt.

Milton Sontheimer Paintings: We hope you have noticed the **beautiful original works of art** displayed in the narthex each week. The paintings are also on the church's website www.abidinghopeerie.org for viewing. Anyone interested in joining the "Art Committee" to help ready the collection for display/sale, please contact the office or Pastor Karen.

Capital Funds Campaign: The sound system is installed and working. Contributions (in any amount) are still being accepted to help reach our goal. **We are at a standstill!** The donation progress chart is in the narthex. Please note on your checks that your gift is for the "Sound System".

Bethany Outreach: The **collection of used clothing and household items** is ongoing as well as pairs of shoes in good condition for **Chosen.** Drop off in the Heritage Room. **KAFP** Project Dignity item for March – dish soap....a white basket is on a table in the narthex for donations.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, a weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Worship Leaders - March 3, 2024

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cuning
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Donna Holder
Communion Cups	Nancy Cuning
Communion Tray	Emily / Kayla Miller
Presenter	Cindy Filson
Presenter	Jeanne Tropper
Ushers	Rick Filson & Andy Saska
Counters	Analee and Lois