

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE and LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You who are thirsty:

People: Come to receive living water.

L: You who are hungry:

P: Taste the bread that satisfies.

L: You who long for connection:

P: Receive the fellowship of this community, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

L: You who search for love:

P: Experience the love of Jesus expressed in music, prayer, community, word and action.

L: May this time of worship fill and refresh you.

P: Let us worship God together!

*OPENING HYMN *God is Truly with Us* #68

INVOKING THE HOLY

Holy One, draw us into community and connection. Let us receive you and our companions in worship. Keep us open to the unexpected, so that we may perceive your work in the world, and your work in us. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, sometimes we are disappointed by other people, too ready to dismiss or discard them. Help us to see in others what you see in them: their growth, the fruits that they offer. Forgive us when we too quickly judge others. Forgive us also, when we doubt that we can be worthy followers of you. May we be inspired to nurture your people and ourselves. Amen.

Silent personal confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

No matter how far from God our resistance takes us, God wishes to draw us back, as deliberately as a hen gathers her brood under her wings. Receive God's embrace and this good news: you are forgiven.

God's ways are not our ways. Where we would condemn ourselves or others, God forgives. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

PASSING THE PEACE

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, it is now,
and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.*

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9*

SERMON *The Way of Confession* Pastor Aram Mitchell

*HYMN OF REFLECTION *Come to Tend God's Garden* #586

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

A blessing when you need a little motivation to change
by Kate Bowler

I am rummaging through this day
in search of evidence
that tomorrow could be different.
As many times as I wake up
determined to bend the future
with each effort and expectation,
my conviction evaporates by the day's end.
Lord, we are given so few chances
to direct the course of our lives.
So with what little is in my control,
could you help me try?

Let me know the satisfaction of sleep
exhausted by my effort.
Walk me to the edge of comfort
and keep me there long enough
to reach for something more.

Rescue me from familiar self-hatred.
(You'll never do it. You can't do it.)
Refine my ambition into honest goals.

Quiet my mind when it is already certain
that nothing could possibly be different.
And rekindle a tenderness in my uncertain heart
for my own small moments of courage
for you've given me nothing to do
but what's mine to be done.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Creator/Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom/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/Kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

From the abundance that God has given us, let us return a portion to be used for God's work through this church.

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from who all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one.*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, take these offerings of treasure, and our lives, to use for your purposes in the world.

*HYMN OF SENDING *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #23

*BENEDICTION

Seek God, who is near. Be ready to hear God's word and live, May you trust in the mercy of God, and the blessings of God, today and always.

POSTLUDE

**Please stand if you are able*

We remember in our prayers: Grace and Susan Greene, Don Gage, George Greene, Tom & Gail Boudin, Margaret Ellsworth, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Joe Dee, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."



March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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