

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday, March 12, 2023 • 10:00 AM



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (from Hebrews 12:2–3 NIV)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emily Mitchell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jamie

One: Let us contemplate Jesus the Lord: He endured the cross, disregarding its disgrace.

All: **We worship you, Lord.**

One: Jesus, you were born into humility to confound the proud and to raise the humble:

All: **We worship you, Lord.**

One: Jesus, you lived among us, healing the sick, proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to the prisoners.

All: **We worship you, Lord.**

One: Jesus, you came into the world to serve and to give your life; you were betrayed for money, dragged before judges, and nailed to a cross.

All: **We worship you, Lord.**

One: Jesus, Lord of the universe, by your resurrection from the dead you are alive at the Father's side, and there you prepare a place for us.

All: **We worship you, Lord.**

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE (Hymn #371) "Lift High the Cross"

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Jesus, on the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.
Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: **have mercy on us.**

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: **have mercy on us.**

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: **Save us, and grant us your peace. Amen.** (silence for reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

BLESSING OF CHILDREN & DISMISSAL TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

MINISTRY MOMENT Stephen Ministry

Dave Randles

SONG OF THE WORD "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

Barry and Catherine Baker

SCRIPTURE READING John 6:35–69 NRSV

SERMON "Do You Also Wish to Go Away?"

Emily Mitchell

OFFERING "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

Barry and Catherine Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER

Linda Erickson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

SONG OF SENDING "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Thank You for Celebrating
"First Fruits" with Us!**

// Food drive update

The deacons would like to thank you all for donating to the "First Fruits" food drive last Sunday. What a wonderful way to celebrate with our children about honoring God with our income through this practical generosity! Your donations will enable us to supply fruit cups to our neighbors for the next three months. We will do a "first fruits" donation again next month on the first Sunday of the month – Palm Sunday – but we'll ask for a different type of food item in April.

Note that you can make donations to the Little Pantry at any time. For details of what is needed, click [here](#) (or pick up a printout of items for re-supplying the Little Pantry at the front desk).

No Choir Rehearsal This Week

// Rehearsals resume March 22



Below is a repeat from the Stories of Faith column from the Friday, November 13th email.

Some Are Evangelists, Some Are Gardeners

// by Lisa Allen

During this past year's Good Friday service, we walked around the outside of the church and ended up in the courtyard. While I was there, I noticed that the pandemic had taken its toll on the church grounds. As I looked around, I

felt this nudge... a quiet whisper, "Lisa, this needs your attention." Now, I do enjoy gardening – but 3 to 4 acres is more than just a simple few hours pulling weeds and planting bulbs in my yard!

So, I thought I'd spend my time getting the courtyard into shape for the staff to look out their windows and enjoy the view. Or they could go out and have a peaceful lunch surrounded by God's beautiful earth. As I was finishing up the courtyard, I was pushed to walk the entire campus and reset my goals. But as I viewed the grounds I told God I couldn't do this by myself. I needed others to help keep me on task and encourage me.

God answered my request as several people in the congregation rose up to work on the grounds and they kept me motivated. Several guys worked on the sprinkler system and enjoyed turning it on in the areas I was working just to cool me off (and maybe they got a giggle out of surprising me with a dousing!). Several others jumped in and weeded different areas that I kept thinking to myself, "I can't do those areas, they're too much." God heard my cry for help.

It was important for me to remember that our grounds are the first thing that visitors see when they come to Calvin. What is the impression we convey to our neighbors and community when they drive by? We want to be good neighbors

and be inviting. One day when I was weeding, I saw a neighbor walking her dog and they were walking through the labyrinth. I'd like to think this area provided her with an opportunity to meditate and center herself.

I ask myself... Am I doing what is pleasing in His eyes? Am I serving others so they can enjoy these grounds and center themselves in prayer or quiet meditation? When I feel a little distant in my faith, working on the grounds at church brings me closer to God. I find I spend my time with a quiet heart, centered on Him. Some may be called to be evangelists, but I have clearly been called to be a gardener for Christ.



Happy Birthday!

- Jean Johnson.....Mar. 13
- Roryk Juengel.....Mar. 19
- Don BelcherMar. 21
- Lyn FouchMar. 21
- Ginny FenskeMar. 22
- Rick MillerMar. 24
- Ian BakerMar. 25
- Lee SimpkinsMar. 26



Upcoming Events

- The Sanctuary Course,*
Sundays at 11:30 am in
the Fireside Room
..... Feb. 26 – Apr. 23
- Choir Rehearsal.....Mar. 22
- Palm Sunday Apr. 02
- Messy Church..... Apr. 05
- Maundy Thursday Apr. 06
- Good Friday Apr. 07
- Easter Egg Hunt Apr. 08
- Easter Sunday Apr. 09
- Ladies' High Tea..... Apr. 22