

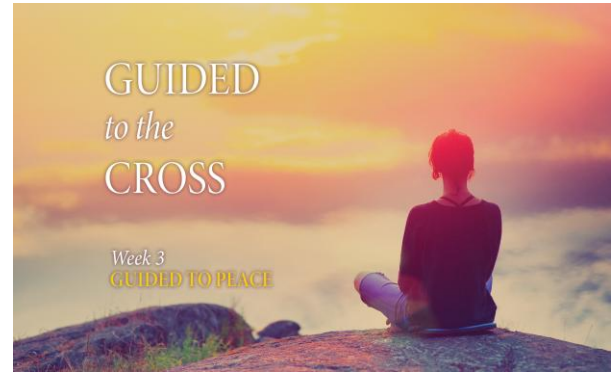
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CLASSIC WORSHIP

MARCH 8TH, 2026 • 8:30 AM

WEEK 3: GUIDED TO THE CROSS – GUIDED TO PEACE



Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary).

Guests: we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the *Guest* side of our *Welcome Card* found in the pews/chair backs, then place it in the offering plates. **Holy Communion:** Questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table* or near the bulletins.

As We Gather: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Col. 1:19-20) In this third week of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls and minds through Christ, who brought peace by the cross.

VIDEO/ WELCOME

Come to the Cross, Third Sunday; 231 Worship

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

440 *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now, On Your holy passion;
 With Your Spirit me endow, For such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith, May the image cherish
 Of Your suffering, pain, and death, That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
 Bonds and stripes and wretchedness, And Your crucifixion;
 Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
 How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone, Make me see Your passion,
 But its cause to me make known, And its termination.
 Ah! I also and my sin, Wrought Your deep affliction;
 This indeed the cause has been, Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view, With repentant grieving.
 Let me not bring shame to You, By unholy living.
 How could I refuse to shun, Ev'ry sinful pleasure
 Since for me God's only Son, Suffered without measure?

OPENING SENTENCES

- P We live in a world where peace can be hard to find. We are surrounded by strife and quarrels. We are often filled with worry and fear. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).
- C Jesus our Savior, when we are troubled and worried by the strife around us, grant us your peace.**
- P The world's peace depends on the absence of war and strife and trouble. The peace that Jesus brings to us is not like the world's peace. The peace of Jesus depends only on Jesus and it lasts forever.
- C Jesus our Savior, even in times of trouble or fear, grant us your peace.**
- P By God's grace, through faith in Jesus, we have peace even in the midst of trouble. Through faith in Jesus, we have peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. It is peace that Jesus won for us through his death on the cross and his triumphant resurrection. It is peace shared as we tell others of Jesus' love.
- C Jesus our Savior, grant us your peace.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[Silence for personal confession and meditation.]

- P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- C Almighty God, you have called us to peace, but so often we choose strife and anger. We do not seek to follow your will and walk in love. Instead, we listen to the temptations of the world around us, and we are often the cause of strife. We live according to our own selfish desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Lead us each day to follow our Savior.**
- P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to suffer and die for our sins to bring us peace with God and with one another. In the stead and by the command of our Savior, Jesus Christ, then, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen. Almighty God, set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of peace.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE

440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

- 5 If my sins give me alarm; And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won, By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!
- 6 Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above; Sing Your praise forever.

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**
- P Let us pray. Jesus, Lord and Savior, through the blood of your cross, you have brought us forgiveness for our sins and peace with God. When the circumstances of life and the dangers and concerns of the world around us threaten the peace that we have, help us to remember your promise, that you will be with us always, to the end of the age (*Matt. 28:20*). Make us bold witnesses for you so that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know the peace that you alone can bring. Set your cross before us to guide us in the way of peace.
- C Amen.**

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 29

(The LORD blesses His people with peace.)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. ³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷ The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!" ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹ May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

567 Not What These Hands Have Done

- 1 Not what these hands have done; Can save this guilty soul;
Not what this toiling flesh has borne, Can make my spirit whole.
- 2 Not what I feel or do, Can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears; Can bear my awful load.
- 3 Thy work alone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, Can give me peace within.
- 4 Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest; And set my spirit free.
- 5 Thy grace alone, O God, To me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, Can this sore bondage break.

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EPISTLE

Colossians 1:13-20

(The Preeminence of Christ.)

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

VERSE

John 2:19

- P Destroy this temple,
C and in three days I will raise it up.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:44-56
(The Death and Burial of Jesus.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things. ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

MESSAGE HYMN

420 Christ, the Life of All the Living

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving; To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit; I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee, Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver; From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only, That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely, Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring, Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon, For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden, I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing, For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry, And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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MESSAGE

Please Stand – Children return from Children's Church.

CREED

Apostles' Creed: The Second Article and Meaning

C I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.

CREED (cont.)

Apostles' Creed: The Second Article and Meaning

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING *(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Prayer response after each petition...)*

P Prince of Peace,

C Hear our prayers and grant us peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

BENEDICTION

Colossians 1:17-20; 2 Thess. 3:16

P Jesus is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

C For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

P Now, may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming, Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming, Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

Into the world, making a clear confession of Christ...

HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual & in-person) today...

Pastor Rev. Jason Hoerth
 Message Rev. Jason Hoerth
 Children's Message Chris Graves DCE.
 Service Music Cheryl Heck

Acolyte Bella Schwartz
 Reader Robin Greene
 Elder Scott Hill
 Counters Brad & Jesse Witzman
 Trustees..... Larry Neack / Jerry Grim

Come & See ✝ Come & Be ✨ Take & Share



Acknowledgments

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