

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



18 FEBRUARY 2026
Ash Wednesday
7:00 pm

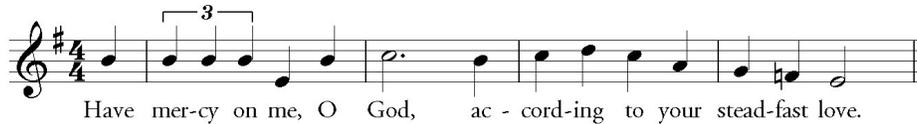
GATHERING

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

WE GATHER IN SILENCE. THE CONGREGATION RISES IN BODY OR SPIRIT WHEN THE PRESIDING MINISTER ENTERS.

PSALM 51

The choir introduces the antiphon and it is repeated by all, then by all only once where indicated. The choir sings the psalm.



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within. **Antiphon**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. **Antiphon**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **Antiphon**

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept while all offer silent prayer. The presiding minister, on behalf of all, prays:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

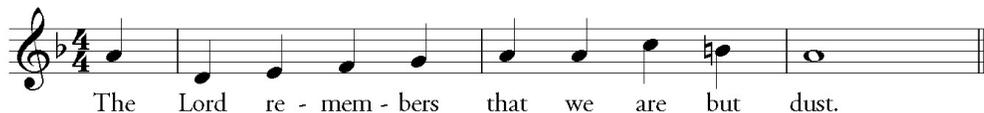
FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

PSALM 103:8-14

The antiphon is introduced by the choir and repeated by all, then again only once where indicated. The psalm is sung responsively according to the tone.

Antiphon



Tone:



⁸Lord, ... you are full of com-[passion] and mercy,
slow to anger ... and abounding in [stead]-fast love;

⁹**you will not [always] accuse us,
nor will you keep your [anger] forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according [to] our sins,
nor repaid us according to [our] iniquities.

**¹¹For as the heavens are high a-[bove] the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for [those] who fear you.**

¹²As far as the east is [from] the west,
so far have you removed our trans-[gressions] from us.

**¹³As a father has compassion [for] his children,
so you have compassion for those who [fear you] O Lord.**

¹⁴For you know well how [we] are formed;
you remember that [we are] but dust. *Antiphon*

SECOND READING: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with God, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For God says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray, then, in this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy. ¹⁰May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us today our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves

treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 920

All Things of Dust to Dust Return



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind-ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis-cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585
Text © 2009 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

INVITATION TO LENT

The congregation is seated. The presiding minister may invite the assembly into the discipline of Lent.

Friends in Christ,...Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
by what we have left undone,
and by what has been done on our behalf.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, our indifference to injustice and cruelty, our perpetuation of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and division, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The presiding minister may say the following prayer.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation may come forward to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther
Text © 1978, 2006 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The cantor introduces the refrain which is repeated by all, then once where indicated.

Refrain



Come, let us re - turn, re - turn to the LORD, for it is



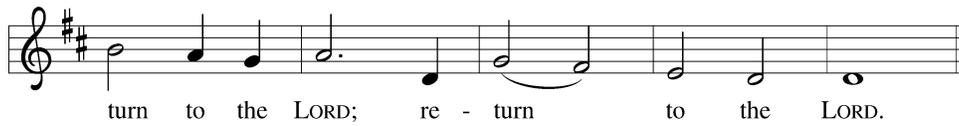
God who has torn us, and God will heal the



tear; for it is God who has struck us, and



God will bind us up. Come, let us re - turn, re -



Text: Mark Mummert, based on Hosea 6:1-3
Music: Mark Mummert
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*After two days God revives us, on the third will raise us up,
that we may stand before the Lord and live in God's sight. Refrain*

*Let us come to know the Lord, whose appearing is sure as the dawn;
who will come to us like showed as the spring rains that water the earth. Refrain.*

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Let us pray, siblings, pray for the Church of Jesus Christ in this and every place. For Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; and all who serve the Church.

silence for personal prayer for the Church

Let us pray for God's good creation, for our stewardship of God's gifts to us, for those who need shelter from the weather.

silence for personal prayer for creation

Let us pray for the nations of the world, for their leaders, for peace and those who seek it.

silence for personal prayer for the nations

Let us pray for those who are sick and suffering, for those who share God's gifts of science and medicine, for those who will die today.

silence for personal prayer for the sick and suffering

Let us pray for all those things that weigh on our hearts.

silence for personal prayer

Let us give thanks for the promises of baptism, for those who have claimed their baptismal promises, and to be held together with them until we are joined into Christ.

silence for personal prayer in thanksgiving for the saints and the gifts of baptism.

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of the Crucified-Risen One, Jesus.

Amen.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (*Ephesians 5:2*)

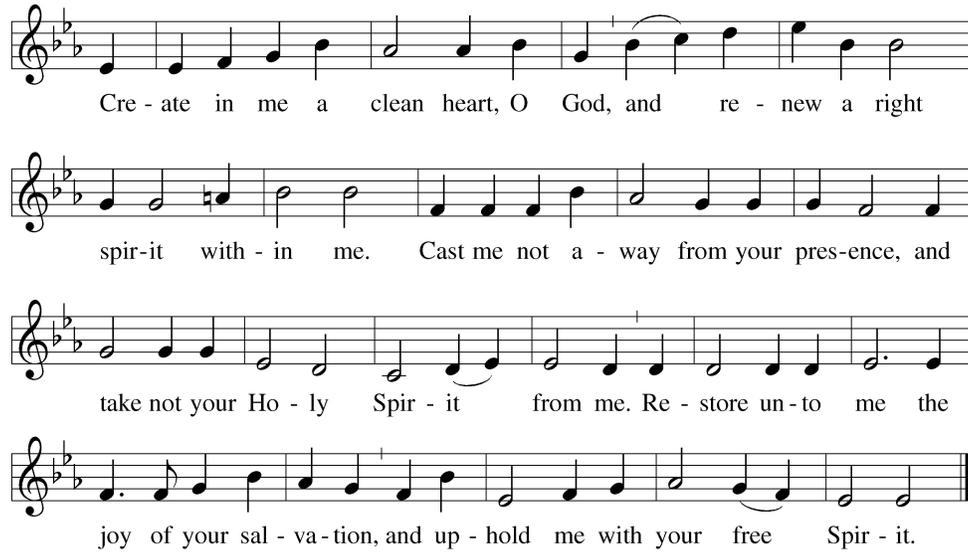
Come, let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

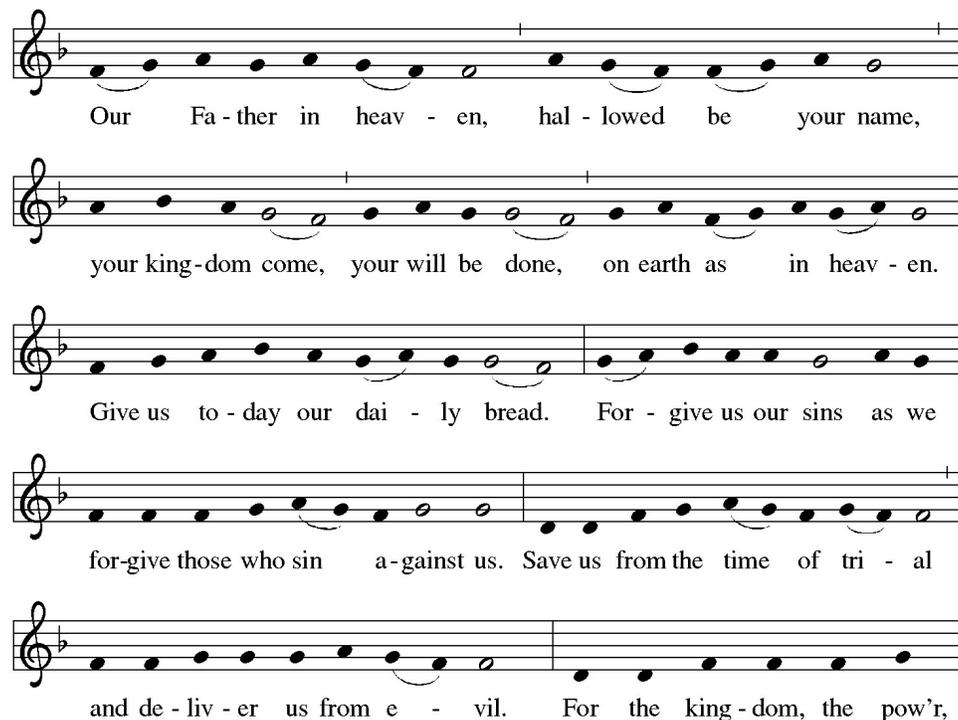
PRAYER

Let us pray: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, face from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PATER NOSTER

♪ Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

...now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 629

Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847
Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE DEPART IN SILENCE.

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Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

— **SERVING TODAY** —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

LECTOR – Stan Rose

USHERS – Mary Daniels, Linda Graffius

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider



Thank You for gathering here in worship today. We hope you will experience personal enrichment and spiritual growth through your participation in our weekly Lenten series.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship services will be held at 8:15am in Faith Chapel and 10:30am in the main church.