



Becoming a beloved community of God where all belong.

Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

Prelude: *Near the Cross* | Tune: by William H. Doane, arr. Becky Waters

Opening Hymn: H-372 | *Praise to the living God!*

Gospel Hymn: H-648 | *When Israel was in Egypt's land*

Offertory: *We Are Not Alone* | Words and Music by Pepper Choplin | Mimi Yu, Soprano

Choir Chant: We are not alone, God is with us. We are never alone.

Solo: We are never alone, for God is with us. Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever, we are never alone.
And God will make us strong for God is with us.
We, we will press on, for God is with us.
Now, through, etc. Our God is with us now.

Communion Hymn: H-439 | *What wondrous love is this*

Closing Hymn: H-149 | *Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church*

Postlude: *And Can It Be That I Should Gain?* | Tune: SAGINA by Thomas Campbell, arr. Lloyd Larson

The Collect/ Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Readings: https://lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Lent/CLent3_RCL.html

Psalm 63 1-8 - Prayed responsively by **whole verse**

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, ***
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

**4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, March 30 - We will welcome a guest preacher, Dane Ray, who will speak to us about their journey as a person of faith who is transgender on the occasion of the Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31st. Dane and family are very involved in their UCC church in DC. Dane was ordained an Itinerant Deacon with a background in leadership, organizing, hermeneutics, and preaching. Dane is also a licensed healthcare provider in the state of Maryland and a community journalist here in the DMV. We look forward to hearing from Dane.

Plastic Eggs - Please take home some plastic eggs to fill with covered candy - no nuts - and bring back to St. Nicholas by Palm Sunday, April 13. The Easter Bunny will hide the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt after worship on Easter Day, April 20.

Stepping Stones Shelter - St. Nicholas is scheduled to prepare and make meals for the residents of Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville on April 28, 2025. Please let Deacon Dawn know if you would like to sign up at deacon@saintnicks.com.

Holy Week Schedule - Procession of the Palms & Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:00 AM; Tenebrae on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 PM; Maundy Thursday Supper & Eucharist, April 17 with Supper at 6:00 & Eucharist at 7:30 PM; Good Friday, April 18 - Stations of the Cross at Noon and Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 PM.

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