

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, March 15, 2026



Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper

We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 15, 2026, 11:00 am
4th Sunday in Lent

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude “Liebster Jesu wir sind hier” Wim Bomhof

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Introit “Litany to the Holy Spirit” Peter Hurford

In the hour of my distress, when temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomfited, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!
When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drowned with sleep.
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep, Sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

Call to Worship

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us worship this good-news God! **Amen.**

*Hymn “As Morning Dawns” 665

*Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

As Morning Dawns

(Psalm 5)

1 As morn - ing dawns, Lord, hear our cry. O sov - ereign
 2 Be - fore you, Lord, the wick - ed fall, and none shall
 3 Your stead - fast love shall wel - come all who seek your
 4 Let all who seek you then re - joice, and sing to

God, now hear our sigh. As first light brings the
 dwell with - in your hall. The proud shall nev - er
 house and on you call. O lead us, Lord, in
 you with joy - ful voice. For you shall bless the

sun's warm rays, ac - cept our sac - ri - fice of praise.
 gain a place, nor e - vil live to see your face.
 righ - teous - ness, as through this day your name we bless.
 righ - teous, Lord. For - ev - er be your name a - dored.

This paraphrase of Psalm 5 emphasizes shared human experience by beginning with the common hope that a new day offers new opportunities and by recasting the lone psalmist's voice into plural expressions. The tune is named for the composer's birthplace in Dorset, England.

Prayer of Confession

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Silent Confession

Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy

579

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains two measures of music. The first measure is for the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.' and the second measure is for 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The second staff contains two measures. The first measure is for 'Lord, have mer' and the second measure is for 'cy.'. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one flat, and various note values and rests.

Assurance of Pardon

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

*Gloria

581



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

Time of Wonder

Jenny Newman

*Exchange of Peace

Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Moment with Earth Care

Nora Johnson

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear. You say, "Love your enemy." "Turn the other cheek." "Care for the widow and the orphan." And we want to know: How? When? Where? Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:13-15, p. 25

*Second Scripture Reading

Deuteronomy 24:17-22, p. 225

Response to the Scripture Readings

For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us, **thanks be to God.**

*Hymn

“O God of Every Nation”

756

*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

As led between petitions, all are invited to respond: God, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

The Lord’s Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

1 Corinthians 8:4–6

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

For our electronic giving option, scan QR code:



Offertory Anthem

“Create In Me a Clean Heart”

Carl F. Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, o God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

*Doxology

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

608

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God of Every Nation

756

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

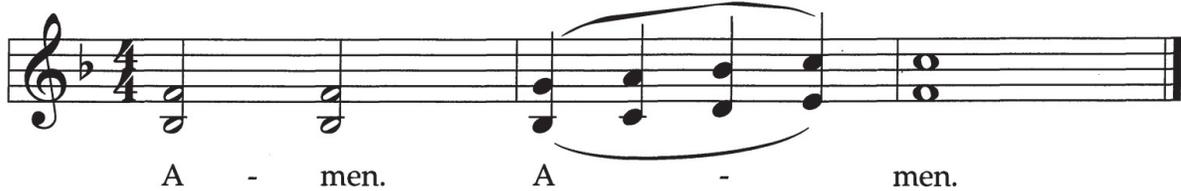
in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

Benediction *All are welcome to join in singing:*

May the peace of our Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

*Amen



Postlude

“Passacaglia alla seconda”

Carlotta Ferrari

Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish.

**Those who can may stand*

Church Announcements

Today’s Service:

Pam Bower (liturgist); April Clisura (pastoral prayer); Calvi Tantalo (livestreaming); Bill Beggs, Carol Beggs, Ray Dittner (ushers)

Liturgy drawn and reprinted with permission from:

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Meetings Today After Service:

- Church and Community Meeting & Coffee Hour! (Chapel)
- Gun Safety Meeting! (Parlor)
- Youth Choir Rehearsal! (Sanctuary)

This Tuesday’s Conversation:

The Stories We Share

A Lenten Conversation Series

Tuesdays at 7 PM on Zoom.

Drop in for any or all of these

intergenerational conversations with our friends and members.



3/17/26 The Story of our Neighborhood: Interfaith Connections

Please contact the church office for the Zoom link. Or scan the QR code now to add this to your calendar.



Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
 2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
 3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
 4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
 and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
 speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
 fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
 pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
 dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
 full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.

The NEW Engagement Committee Needs You!

Are you looking to get to know your fellow church members & friends better? Do you have thoughts as to how we can do better greeting new attendees and transitioning those attendees to members? Do you have ideas as to how we can better market Sixth Presbyterian Church to the Pittsburgh Community?

Then join us on **Sunday, March 22** in the Parlor after worship to brainstorm.

No Kings March on Saturday 3/28

The Peace and Justice working group invites you to join them on Saturday March 28th in attending the No Kings March. We will be meeting at Sixth at 11:00 am and taking public transit into the city. Please make signs at home and bring them with you. Pastor Charissa will be at the church early if you need materials to make a sign. We hope you can join us!

Deviled Egg Taste-Off

The SIXTH CHURCH DEVEILED EGG TASTE-OFF during coffee hour on Easter Sunday is on! We'd love for you to participate by bringing in a plate/container of deviled eggs on Easter Sunday.

Take them to the downstairs kitchen from 9:30am till the start of worship, so that the catering committee can refrigerate, plate and set them out with the coffee and other refreshments after the service.

Thank you! The more eggs, the merrier!

Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 29th – *Palm Sunday*

With waving of palms and youth choir. Coffee Hour to follow worship.

April 2nd – *Maundy Thursday*

Worship with combined Agape meal in the chapel at 7pm.

April 3rd – *Good Friday*

Visit our prayer stations in the sanctuary.

Stop by anytime between 9 to 11:50am, 2 to 4pm, or 6 to 8pm for prayer and reflection.

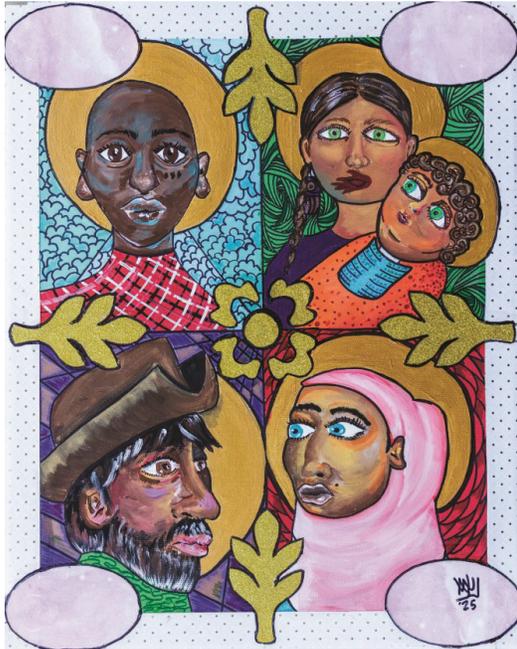
Good Friday worship service at Church of the Redeemer at noon.

April 5th – *Resurrection of the Lord*

Students and their families are invited to the chapel during Sunday School hour for Easter activities.

Worship at traditional 11am, celebrated with Communion and special music.

Annual Deviled Egg Taste-Off after service in the chapel!



Fuera ICE15 by Nicolette Faison
Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22
16"x20" Acrylic, marker,
paper on canvas

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church:

Sunday, March 15 (after worship)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
Church & Community Mtg (12pm, Chapel)
Gun Safety Committee Mtg (12pm, Parlor)
Youth Choir Rehearsal (12pm, Sanctuary)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Tuesday, March 17

The Stories We Share (7pm, Zoom)

Wednesday, March 18

Bible Study (10:30-11:30am, Zoom)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (7-9pm, Parlor)

Thursday, March 19

Staff Meeting (10am, Zoom hybrid)
Youth Group (4:30-7pm, ELPC)
Choir Rehearsal (7:30-8:30pm, Chapel)

Friday, March 20

League of Women's Book Club (10:30am-12pm, Chapel)
Tri Lam (2-5pm, Parlor)

Saturday, March 21

AA-Turning Point (5-6pm)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (6-9pm, Parlor)
NA-Squirrel Hill Group (7:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, March 22

Sunday School (10am)
Choir Rehearsal (10am, Sanctuary)
Worship (11am-12pm, in-person & streaming)
Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
Engagement Committee Mtg (12pm, Chapel)
Youth Choir Rehearsal (12pm, Sanctuary)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here.



HOSANNA!

Love Demands Courage

A Palm Sunday Procession of Neighbors

Today, the need for *authentic* Christian witness is urgent.
*We will not sit by as our immigrant neighbors are hunted
and our trans neighbors demonized.*

On Palm Sunday, we will remember who we are called to be:
*neighbors who need each other, neighbors who value each
other, neighbors who will rise to catch stones thrown at
members of our community.*

Please join us.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Sunday, March 29, 2026, 3pm

Gather in front of Community of Reconciliation
100 North Bellefield, corner of Bellefield & Fifth Ave, Oakland

*Please note that this is a Christian religious observance, not a conventional protest.
To those who would like to support this action but not participate in the ritual
You are very welcome here, and your presence among us would be a blessing.*



For more information, please scan QR or go to
www.queervirtue.com/stonecatchers



Sponsored by: Community of Reconciliation Church
The Stone Catchers, *a growing community of energized
Christians stepping out into the public square to interrupt
spiritual violence & proclaim the power of our scandalous God*

EASTER MEMORIALS

We offer two options for honoring our loved ones at Easter:

1. You can buy an Easter lily for \$10.00 and have a name placed in the bulletin in honor of or in memory of a loved one. You can then take your lily home after the Easter service.
2. The second option will be to have a loved one's name placed in the bulletin but instead of buying a flower, you can donate \$10.00 or more to the Deacons' fund.

We realize that there may be fewer flowers to decorate our sanctuary for Easter, but we feel that some of the money can be used for another cause while still having the opportunity to honor our loved ones.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office.

Checks should be made payable to "Sixth Presbyterian Church" with "Flowers" or "Deacons' Fund" written in the memo field. If you would like to purchase flowers **and** donate to the Deacons fund as well, please write separate checks.

I wish to order _____ Easter Lilies at \$10.00 each

I wish to donate _____ to the Deacons Fund

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Your name (please print): _____

Phone/email: _____

Name(s) to be remembered:

In Memory Of In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of In Honor Of _____

(use other side if needed)

The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, March 29th.



Name(s) to be remembered (continued from other side):

In Memory Of In Honor Of _____

*Remember, the deadline for ordering flowers is **Sunday, March 29th.***

Please pick up your lilies after worship on Easter, April 5th.

