



Faith - Family - Fellowship

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**  
MARCH 16, 2025  
11:05 a.m.

CALL TO WORSHIP	Joy	Praise Team & Congregation
SONG OF FAITH	How He Loves	Praise Team & Congregation
GREETING & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		PR
WORDS OF WISDOM	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Claudia Persavich
SONG OF HOPE	At The Cross	Praise Team (solo)
NEW DOXLOGY / BLESSING OF THE OFFERING		
PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH / THE LORD'S PRAYER		Charlie Cathey
WORD OF GOD	Mark 31: 31-38	Melanie Ferguson
SPIRITUAL VITAMIN	THE CROSS Follow!	
	Following Jesus means you don't have to follow the rat race, Amen!	
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS		
SONG OF LOVE	Breathe	Praise Team & Congregation
GOING FORTH		

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People:** 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

## WORDS OF WISDOM - JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The Book of Jeremiah is the prophecy of a man divinely called in his youth from the priestly city of Anathoth. A heartbroken prophet with a heartbreaking message, Jeremiah labors for more than forty years proclaiming a message of doom to the stiff-necked people of Judah. Despised and persecuted by his countrymen, Jeremiah bathes his harsh prophecies in tears of compassion. His broken heart causes him to write a broken book, which is difficult to arrange chronologically or topically. But through his sermons and signs he faithfully declares that surrender to God's will is the only way to escape calamity.

Allow these words from chapter 14 to ignite into you a newfound passion for a new heart and a time to refocus, refresh, restart as you follow **The Cross** through this Lent 2025 season..

That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master." God's Decree.

"This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree.

Bless our understanding of these scared scriptures from the Prophet, Jeremiah.

**People: Alleluia, Praise be to God, Alleluia!**

## WORD OF GOD - MARK 8:31-38

The message of Mark's gospel is captured in a single verse: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many". Chapter by chapter, the book unfolds the dual focus of Christ's life: service and sacrifice. Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move, instantly responsive to the will of the Father.

Today's reading comes from the 8th chapter highlighting Jesus' announcement of His forthcoming death and the challenges of "taking up" a cross to start following Him.

Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.

Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**