

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 1, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

WHAT'S THE LEAST
I CAN
BELIEVE
AND STILL BE A
CHRISTIAN?

What Matters Most?
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

Greeting Liturgist

Prelude

"Glorify Thy Name" - Adkins/Hamlin

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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(Please stand.)

***Call to Worship** Liturgist

One: As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey,

All: **God calls us to follow in trust.**

One: God is able to make us more than we have been

All: **and blesses us on the way.**

One: As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born from above

All: **Christ invites us to become a new creation.**

One: Christ calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light,

All: **and we are saved through him. Let us worship the**

Lord of Life!

*Opening Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West" #600

CHRISTIAN UNITY

600 In Christ There Is No East or West

C G F9 Bb Bb F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

F F E D D F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth;
 2 For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;
 3 It is by grace we are as-sured that we be-long to him:
 4 So broth-ers, sis-ters, praise his name who died to set us free
 5 In Christ there is no east or west—he breaks all bar-riers down;

Am G C Am C G9 C G7 C F C D9 C G7 C

F F E D D F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F C

the cho-sen fam-ily God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.
 has rec-on-ciled us through his Son and met us all with grace.
 the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spir-it's work with-in.
 from sin, di-vi-sion, hate and shame, from spite and en-mi-ty!
 by Christ re-deemed, by Christ pos-sessed, in Christ we live as one.

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996); from a line by John Oxenham (1852-1941)

MUSIC: African-American melody; arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

McKEE
C.M.

***Call to Confession**

***Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***Passing the Peace**

One: As a forgiven and reconciled people - let us offer signs of Christ's peace to one another

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you!"

Response: "And also with you"

Anthem

"Agnus Dei" with *"How Great Thou Art"* - Smith & Hine/Raney

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

© agnus dei—c. 1990 & this arr. C. 2017 Sony/ATV Music Publishing ..c How Great Thou Art—c. 1949, 1953, and this arr. C. 2017

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message

Wendy Brown

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Intercessory Prayer

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- ⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

*Hymn of Preparation

“I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty” vs. 1-2
(words and music on the following page)

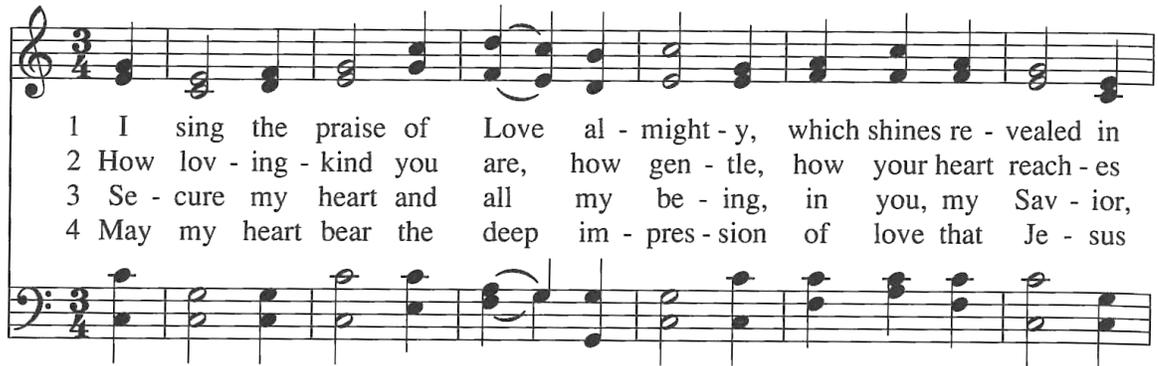
Gospel Lesson: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ ²⁹Jesus answered, ‘the first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” ³¹The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ ³²Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; ³³and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength”, and “to love one’s neighbor as oneself”,—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.

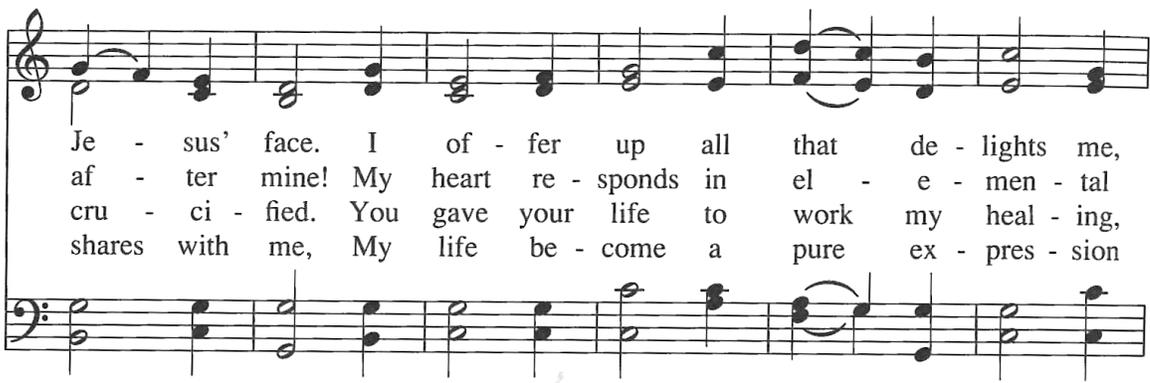
I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty

Gerhard Tersteegen, 1757

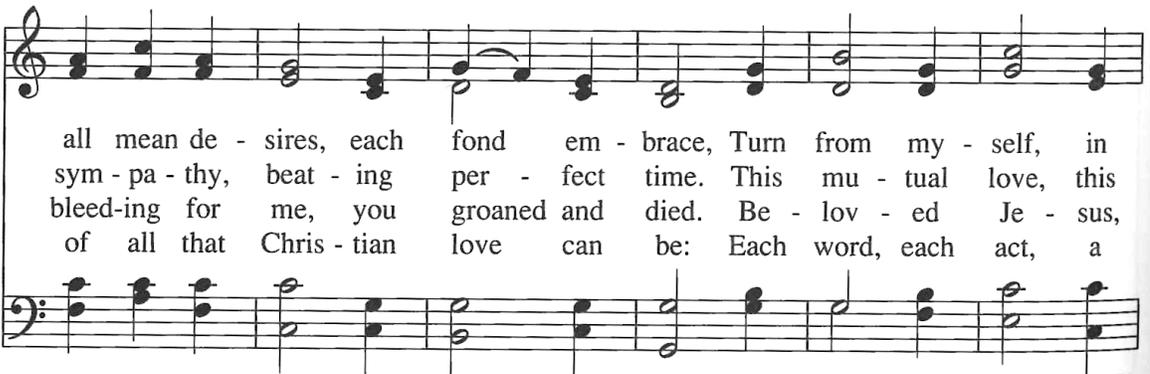
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



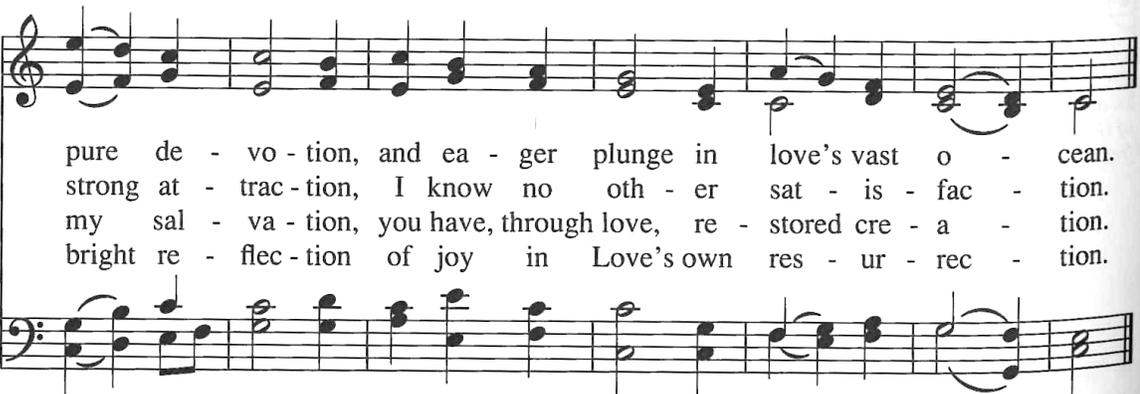
1 I sing the praise of Love al - might - y, which shines re - vealed in
2 How lov - ing - kind you are, how gen - tle, how your heart reach - es
3 Se - cure my heart and all my be - ing, in you, my Sav - ior,
4 May my heart bear the deep im - pres - sion of love that Je - sus



Je - sus' face. I of - fer up all that de - lights me,
af - ter mine! My heart re - sponds in el - e - men - tal
cru - ci - fied. You gave your life to work my heal - ing,
shares with me, My life be - come a pure ex - pres - sion



all mean de - sires, each fond em - brace, Turn from my - self, in
sym - pa - thy, beat - ing per - fect time. This mu - tual love, this
bleed - ing for me, you groaned and died. Be - lov - ed Je - sus,
of all that Chris - tian love can be: Each word, each act, a



pure de - vo - tion, and ea - ger plunge in love's vast o - cean.
strong at - trac - tion, I know no oth - er sat - is - fac - tion.
my sal - va - tion, you have, through love, re - stored cre - a - tion.
bright re - flec - tion of joy in Love's own res - ur - rec - tion.

Gerhard Tersteegen was an eighteenth-century hymnwriter and mystic, nurtured in the German Reformed Church. The four stanzas that comprise "Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe" were drawn from a longer poem and became popular in this form when published by Pastor Johannes Evangelist Gossner in his Choralbuch of 1825

Tune: ST. PETERSBURG 9.8.9.8.9.9.
Dimitri Bortmiansky, 1825

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

Sermon

*“What’s the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: Jesus’
Priority: What Matters Most”* - Rev. Daniel Doty

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

GIVE ONLINE HERE



Offertory

“The Love of God” - Lehman/Hamlin

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

© 2001 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) in Glad Adoration.

(Please stand.)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude— for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION W/ LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING IN THE BREAD AND THE CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

*Closing Hymn

"I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty" vs. 3-4
(words and music on page 7)

*Benediction

*Congregation Response

**"Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love."**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Postlude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" - Luther/Leavitt

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team:	Vince Scovern, Ann Hagan
Liturgist:	Rev. John Phillips
Ushers:	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Tom Labay, Ken Caldwell
Greeters:	

Today's altar flower are provided by: The Nagel Family

"In Loving memory of Jack."

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UPCOMING EVENTS



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MARCH LUNCH—PIZZA AND BUNCO

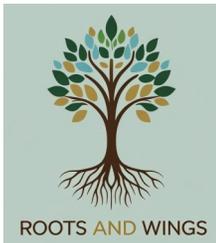
THURSDAY, MAR. 5, 12 PM

All women are invited to join us on the first Thursday in March, March 5th, at 12 PM in the fellowship hall for a pizza lunch and Bunco. Please bring a \$5 donation per person to help defray the cost of the pizza. Never played Bunco before? No worries—you'll pick it up fast and have a blast! **Sign up in the atrium** before or after church on Sundays: **2/15, 2/22, and 3/1.**



YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING MEETING | SUNDAY, MAR. 8, AFTER WORSHIP

Youth Sunday is coming up on April 26th. It's time to start planning. Join us after worship on Sunday, March 8th and bring your good ideas!



ROOTS AND WINGS | SUNDAY, MAR. 8, 4 PM

Roots and Wings is a fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This month's activity is Games, games and more games.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPAGHETTI DINNER | THURS., MAR. 19, 4:30-6:30 PM

Roots and Wings is a fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This month's activity is Games, games and more games.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP | SUNDAY, MAR. 15, 4:00 PM

We are going to Scene 75. Invite a friend and join us!

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*
Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*
Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Fridays—9:00 am—12:00 pm

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. *Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm*

Brad Ashley

Noreen Ashley

Tim Ashley

Debbie B.

The Becking Family

Katie Ann Bickett

Margarete Boschert

Jim Brown

John Calvarese

Patti Calvarese

Sue Canavan

Jim Caplinger

Patty Conely

Rylin Davis and family

Sean and Sara Doty

Elaine Engle

Ron Evans

Debbie Fickes

Karen Ford

Darrell Goodson

Eleanor Hall

Sue Hamilton

Alleen Hilbish

Jim Jackson

John James

Nancy Johnson

Anita Kelly-Lahrmer

Zell Lambert

Yvonne Larson

Roberta Lewis

Melba Moor

Ron Mitchell

Bob Poff

David and Jackie Parker

LTJG John Norton

Heather Read

Richard Reynolds

Alice Sheeler

Eddie Showalter

Lt. Maxwell Spear

Richard & Karen Thomason

Kim and Noel Walters

Ensign 3 Kaitlyn Wetter

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support

Group

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PECAN UPDATE: We still have a few bags of pecans left from our sale. We are selling them at a reduced rate, \$10 per bag. Please reach out to Anne Pertick, anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org, if you would like to buy a bag.



2026 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS: 2026 Memorial Scholarship Applications are now available online. All parts of the application are due on Thursday, April 2nd, by 3:00 pm.



DIRECTORY UPDATE: We have completed the approval process and picture collection for our online directory. You can now access the directory via your Realm account. Because this directory is digital, pictures can be added and contact information can be changed at any time. If you need assistance accessing your Realm account or uploading a family photo, please scan the QR code and fill out the form.



We prefer that you use the online version of our directory, but if you would like a printed copy, you can request one by emailing Cathy Cotter, info@fcctallmadge.org. Please consider a \$5 donation if requesting a paper version, to help defer the cost of printing.

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2026

Easter morning, April 5, we will adorn the Chancel with beautiful flowers. We are offering a selection of colorful potted spring flowers along with the traditional Easter lilies. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please complete this form, then bring it to the church office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday morning. Checks may be made out to First Congregational Church. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin. *The last day to order is March 9th.*

Name _____ Phone No. _____

of Easter Lilies _____ # of Tulips _____

of Daffodils _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Message _____

Please check one: Pick up flowers _____ Donate your flowers _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music, PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Easter Special Music Donation 2026

The 10:00 AM Easter service on April 5 will feature a brass quintet sponsored by our "Special Music Fund." Please consider contributing to this fund as a memorial or honorary gift. Simply fill out this form, then place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with your check made out to First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. In the memo line at the bottom of your check, please write "Easter Special Music Donation." Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin.

Forms must be returned to the office by March 22nd.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music, PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Message _____