

## Our Lenten Focus: Prayer

Throughout the 2024-25 program year, we have been exploring what it means to deepen our connectedness to God, to one another, and to the world. We have done this in a variety of ways - focusing for a season on one of five traditional discipleship practices. We began the year focusing on worship and education. We recently concluded our focus on generosity. After Easter, we will conclude the program year with a focus on service.

During Lent, our focus is on prayer. It is particularly appropriate to focus on prayer during Lent, as Lent is a season where we seek to deepen our connectedness to God in a variety of ways. How might you become more connected to God through prayer in this season?

We are encouraging everyone to participate in our congregational devotional reading of the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. The psalms have long been a source of prayer for God's people. Caldwell's book walks us through several of the psalms in her devotionals. Each week concludes with a simple, but deep, spiritual practice that invites us into a deeper connection with our Triune God.



Massanutten  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship  
March 23, 2025  
*Third Sunday in Lent*



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## We Gather at God's Call

Introit *O Savior, in This Quiet Place* - Jones

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* - Larkin

\*Call to Worship (*responsively*) Gus Scheidt, Worship Leader

Thirsty, our hearts crave living water.

Hungry, our souls ache to be satisfied.

**Weary, our minds are tired by thoughts that do not come from God.**

Thirsty, hungry, and weary,

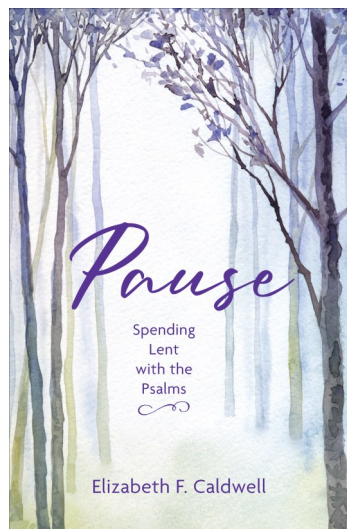
**Let us worship the God of love.**

\*Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 475

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily, I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it seal it for thy courts above.*



During Lent, the congregation is encouraged to read the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms*, by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. This book includes readings from the Psalms for all Sundays and other holy days of Lent. It also includes recommended spiritual practices that we can include in our lives that encourage us to slow down and rest in God's presence. Both Adult Sunday School classes will be discussing the book.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Almighty God, though you lovingly tend us,  
we have not put forth the good fruits of your Spirit.  
Our consumption poisons the earth.  
Our violence threatens our neighbors.  
Our greed exploits the poor.  
We must seem a waste of time,  
but don't give up on us yet, O God.  
In your power to abundantly pardon,  
forgive us for the sake of Christ,  
and imbue us with love, peace,  
goodness, and faithfulness.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

God makes with us an everlasting covenant,  
the sure, steadfast love  
known to Moses, David, and the ancestors  
and revealed in Jesus upon the cross.

Trust in the good news:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*Response of Praise      *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer (v. 1)*      439

***O my soul, bless your Redeemer;  
all within me bless God's name;  
bless the Savior, and forget not  
all God's mercies to proclaim.***

Four Cents a Meal Offering      *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*      647

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.***

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"***

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong";  
let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks. Give thanks.***

## Life at Massanutten

- **The new "Deep Dive" Bible Study** begins looking at 1 Thessalonians this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This group will focus on diving deep into scripture (or other books relevant to our faith) such that the ensuing discussion yields a greater understanding of the truth the Holy Spirit speaks to us. People who join this group should be okay with wrestling with interpretations of scripture that may challenge previously-held personal interpretations of scripture. The group will meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. For more details, please see Ron Matthews or David Allen.
- **The Open Doors kitchen is now opened!** We are collecting spices for the kitchen during the month of March. Stop by the table in the Narthex and pick a spice to purchase.
- If you've been unable to turn in an **Estimate of Giving card**, please do so as soon as possible. Estimate of Giving cards are available from the church office, or you can complete one at [massanuttenchurch.org](http://massanuttenchurch.org).
- **Massanetta Springs Bible & Church Conference 2025, Wilderness Promise July 20 - 26, 2025:** Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow will be preaching Wednesday & Friday. Family camp meets continuing education at this conference for all ages of worship leaders. Whether you are ordained or a layperson, staff or volunteer or congregant, there are plenty of opportunities to learn, practice, and worship together. Register by March 24th to receive early bird discount and save \$40! Scholarships Available! We have big discounts for first time participants and other scholarships available! Contact Colleen Earp, Program Director, for more information: [colleen@massanettasprings.org](mailto:colleen@massanettasprings.org)
- **Massanetta Springs Community Meal** - On Wednesday, April 23rd at 12:30 p.m. you're invited to the Massanetta Springs Community Meal. Come and enjoy French Onion Meatloaf, Oven Fried Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Pies, Cakes, and More! There is no charge for the meal, but donations are most welcome. Most dietary requests can be accommodated with advance notice. RSVP at [www.massanettasprings.org/community-meal](http://www.massanettasprings.org/community-meal) or by calling Cherokee Adams at 540-434-3829.

## MPC Safety Messages

- **Intersection danger**—The light at Rt. 33 is notorious for running on red. Always pause and check that traffic is stopped before entering the intersection.

**This Week At MPC**

**Sunday, March 23**

9:00am Adult Sunday School  
(117, 119)  
9:30am Faith Village  
Parent Fellowship  
HS Breakfast  
10:30am Worship  
Godly Play  
1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)  
2:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)  
*No Fun with Handbells*  
*No Evening Youth Group*

**Monday, March 24**

6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)  
6:00pm Brass Quintet (210)  
6:30pm Boy Scouts (119)  
7:00pm Mass. Ringers (HBR)

**Tuesday, March 25**

**Wednesday, March 26**

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)  
5:30pm Bible Study (FH)  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)

**Thursday, March 27**

11:00am Shen Youth Leaders (L)  
4:30pm Mosaic (HBR)  
6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)

**Friday, March 28**

4:00pm Mosaic (FH, GA, KIT)  
*Church Office Closed*

**Saturday, March 29**

9:00am Mosaic (FH, GA, KIT)  
*Church Office Closed*

**Sunday, March 30**

9:00am Adult Sunday School  
(117, 119)  
*No Faith Village*  
*No Parent Fellowship*  
*No HS Breakfast*  
10:30am Worship  
Godly Play  
12:00pm Elder Training (L)  
1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)  
2:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)  
*No Fun with Handbells*  
*No Evening Youth Group*

**Serving March 23**

**Door Monitor:** Jack Rimer

**Greeters:** Doug & Sharon Pafford

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
Larry & Pam French

**Faith Village:** Jennifer & Emily Coffelt

**Godly Play:** Hannah Altman

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

**Youth Group:** *No Youth Group*

**Serving March 30**

**Door Monitor:** Phil Miller

**Greeters:** Dick & Karen Leecy

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
Skip Wissinger & Dwight Newman

**Faith Village:** *No Faith Village*

**Godly Play:** Hannah Altman

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Sally Brown

**Youth Group:** *No Youth Group*

**We Gather around God's Word**

Time with the Children

Hannah Altman

Special Music

*Walk the Walk*  
Kath Wissinger, Bell Tree

- Wissinger

Scripture

Psalm 63: 1-8

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God's image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God;  
we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and in ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

**In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people  
to bless all families of the earth.**

**Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Thanksgiving

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Concerns of the Congregation

Song of Prayer *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* 469

*Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying.  
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

**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;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**We Are Sent to the World**

\*Hymn *Alleluia! Laud and Blessing* 755

*Alleluia! Laud and blessing to our God, whose Word is sure;  
by whose grace we find redemption, in whose love we live secure.  
Righteousness and rich compassion shall attend us all our days;  
may God's promise to be faithful echo through our songs of praise!*

*Alleluia! God sustains us; matchless are the gifts we share:  
light in darkness, hope in conflict, answers to our deepest prayer.  
Ours to give as we are given: arms to lift when others fall;  
images of God's great goodness, faithful servants to God's call.*

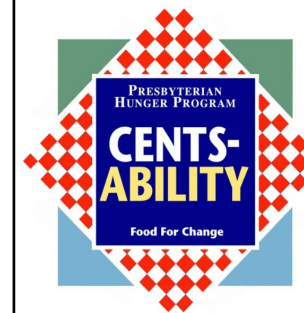
*Alleluia! Holy Parent, all your children now reclaim;  
may our lives reflect your justice, heirs to your most sacred name.  
Fill our hearts with understanding, brace our weakness by your might;  
awesome honor, born in wisdom; your great glory, our delight!*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response *Bless the Lord My Soul* 544

*Bless the Lord, my soul,  
and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul,  
who leads me into life.*

Today we will receive the 4-Cents-A-Meal offering—a ministry of the PC(USA)'s Cents-Ability program. Gifts to 4-Cents-a-Meal support hunger ministries near and far. 25% of what's received will remain at Massanutten. We will use it to support the purchase of food for our Blessings-in-a-Bag/Food-for-the-Weekend program at South River Elementary School in Grottoes.



**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session**

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Jan Arnold	Erin Basgier	David Allen
Ben Craig	Jennifer Coffelt	Kathy Frakes
Bill Frazier	Ashley Gordon-Becker	Pam French
Chris Hamilton	Deidre Lenderking	Lindsey Harvell-Bowman
Julia Sensabaugh	Beth Smith	Ric Leibold

**Clerk:** Ron Matthews, **Moderator:** Rev. Keith Phillips

**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Rev. Keith Phillips**, Pastor (kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Bob Jerome**, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Carol Lown**, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Hannah Altman**, Children and Youth Program Director (haltman@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Ashlea Liptrap**, Administrative Assistant (office@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Logan Davis**, Digital Worship Coordinator (media@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Karen Leecy**, Office Manager (kleecy@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Danielle Cunningham**, Digital Media Communications Coord. (dcunningham@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Greg Trobaugh**, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net),  
**Katie Rodgers**, Nursery Caregiver; **Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes**, Custodians

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