

*Central Presbyterian Church*  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
March 23, 2025 at 11:00 am ET



# Gathering

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Ann Deibert

Prelude

Phillip Morgan

Call to Worship

Miriam

One: God is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

**All: God is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One: I believe that I shall see the goodness of God  
in the land of the living.

**All: Wait for God;  
be strong and let your heart take courage.**

*from Psalm 27*

Prayer of the Day (unison)

**God of all creation,  
as a hen gathers her chicks together,  
so we gather here to worship  
within the shelter of your wings.**

**Open our eyes and our ears,  
our hearts and our minds,  
so that we may follow you well.**

**May we see your promises more brightly  
than we do the stars**

**and hear your good news more clearly  
than the noise that inhabits our lives.**

**We are here, God, show us your way.**

\* Hymn No. 652

“A Grateful Heart”  
ROCKINGHAM

Congregation

Prayer of Confession

**God of the Universe,**

**you created us and called us good.**

**You planted us in the garden of your grace  
and provided everything we might need.**

**Yet we are tempted by other fruit  
and succumb to our own desires.**

**We sin against you,  
disobeying your commandments.**

**We sin against others, causing sorrow and suffering.**

**We even sin against ourselves,  
forgetting that we are made in your image.**

**Forgive us.**

**Deliver us from sin and death,  
strengthen us by your faithfulness,  
and cover us with your righteousness,  
that we may turn away from evil  
and live according to your word;  
through Christ our Savior.**

(a time for silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Promise

One: Since we are justified by grace through faith,  
we have peace with God in Jesus Christ.

This is the promise and hope of the gospel—  
and hope does not disappoint us,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

People of God, believe the good news:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Song of Thanksgiving  
Hymn No. 447

“We Are Forgiven”  
WE ARE FORGIVEN

Congregation

The Journey

\* Passing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

*Song of Community Hymn No. 771	“What Is the World Like” NEW WORLD <i>(We will sing verse 4.)</i>	Congregation
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## Listening

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture	Ephesians 5:13-20 Revelation 2:1-7
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One: The word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon	“Faithful Living in Contentious Times”	Dr. Lewis Brogdon
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## Responding

* Hymn No. 345	“In an Age of Twisted Values” CHURCH UNITED	Congregation
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Prayers of Intercession & The Lord’s Prayer

Offering *(To make a donation please see the options on the back page of the bulletin.)*  
Offering Invitation

Offertory Anthem	“Kyrie” from <i>Mass no. 2 in G</i> Franz Schubert	Chancel Choir
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* Doxology Hymn No. 698	“Take, O Take Me as I Am” TAKE ME AS I AM	Congregation
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\* Prayer of Commitment

* Hymn No. 435	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” IN BABILONE	Congregation
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\* Benediction

One: And all God’s people said,

**All: Amen!**

Postlude

Phillip Morgan

*Thank you to Miriam for helping to lead today's liturgy.*

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**We Welcome Guest Preacher, Dr. Lewis Brogdon**

Dr. Lewis Brogdon is a religious scholar, public intellectual, author, and prophetic voice on the topics of Martin Luther King, Jr., the debate about reparations for African Americans, nihilism in Black America, slavery in the Bible, Black religion, and the complex legacy of racism in America. He has accepted invitations to the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (an advisory body to the United Nations Human Rights Council) and the White House, as well as media outlets, churches, colleges, and community organizations nationwide.

He has offered prayers at the National Press Club and the South African Embassy in Washington D.C.; delivered keynote addresses for the 2023 Virginia Counselors' Association annual meeting and Dayton, Ohio's city-wide Martin Luther King dinner.

He has lectured on Black Studies in Jerusalem, Haiti, and the Bahamas. Dr. Brogdon taught his Martin Luther King, Jr. course at four educational institutions—including a session with Dr. Cornel West—and has lectured at the University of Central Florida (UCF), Abilene Christian University, Louisville Seminary, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Claflin University, Radford University, Campbellsville University, Bluefield University, and North Park Theological Seminary.

Dr. Brogdon is currently an Associate Professor of Black Church Studies and Executive Director of the Institute for Black Church Studies at BSK Theological Seminary in Louisville and the author of many books such as *Hope on the Brink*, and most recently *The Bible in the Ashes of Social Chaos: An Introduction to Problematic Texts*.

# A Grateful Heart

652

(Psalm 111)

1 A grate - ful heart is what I bring, a song of  
2 Your name is known in all the lands. You feed the  
3 With sav - ing love you set us free, and still you

praise, my of - fer - ing. A - mong the saints I  
poor with gen - tle hands. Your word is true, your  
dwell in mys - ter - y with wis - dom none can

lift my voice: in you, O God, I will re - jice.  
works are just; in you, O God, the faith - ful trust.  
com - pre - hend. Your praise, O God, will nev - er end.

This paraphrase of Psalm 111 preserves the psalm's quality of providing a general list of God's praiseworthy characteristics rather than giving thanks for a particular act of deliverance. In the original text these attributes are organized as an acrostic on the Hebrew alphabet.

## 447

## We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text  
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995  
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN  
 10.8.10.8

# What Is the World Like

771

Capo 1: (G) (Em7) (C) (D)  
 A<sup>b</sup> Fm7 D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

1 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?  
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,

(Em) (C) (Am) (B7)  
 Fm D<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m C7

Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:  
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;  
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;  
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,  
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.

(Em) (Am) (D) (G)  
 Fm B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.  
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.  
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.  
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.  
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

(C) (Em7) (Am7) (D) (G)  
 D<sup>b</sup> Fm7 B<sup>b</sup>m7 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.  
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.  
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.  
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.  
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text and tune were written to conclude a hymn festival at the 2009 Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Four parables framed both the festival and the hymn: the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, and the Ten Bridesmaids.



# In an Age of Twisted Values 345

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G) (D)  
 Fm Cm Fm E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



1 In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the  
 2 We have built dis - crim - i - na - tion on our prej - u -  
 3 When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are  
 4 We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly

(Em) (A) (B7) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (D) (G)  
 Fm B<sup>b</sup> C7 Fm Cm Fm E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



truth we need. In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have  
 dice and fear. Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we  
 full of strife, when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they  
 to o - bey. Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us

(Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em) (C) (G)  
 B<sup>b</sup>m Fm Cm Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



jus - ti - fied our greed. By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions  
 hold re - sent - ments dear. For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed  
 lose their way in life, when we fail to give the a - ged  
 truth to light our way. In the pow - er of your Spir - it

(D) (Am) (Em) (B7) (Em) (Bm)  
 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m Fm C7 Fm Cm



we have robbed the poor and weak. Hear our cry and  
 by the walls of class and race, hear our cry and  
 all the care we know they need, hear our cry and  
 come to cleanse us, make us new; hear our cry and

(Em) (D) (G) (Am) (Em) (Bm) (Em)  
 Fm E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m Fm Cm Fm



heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.  
 heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.  
 heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.  
 heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

One of the ways Christians can show firm allegiance to the country where they live and express care for its well-being is to ensure that they are mindful of the broad range of human needs within that society. This hymn is a strong reminder of the values that need such attention.

# 698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a whole note 'Take,' followed by a quarter note 'O', a quarter note 'take me as I', and a quarter note 'am;'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines. The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note 'sum-mon out what I shall', a quarter note 'be;', a quarter note 'set your seal up-on my heart and live in', and a quarter note 'me.'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall  
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

# 435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness  
2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,  
of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's  
is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place  
faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.  
flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

The musical score consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is a simple, folk-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

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### Central Presbyterian Church

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#### Parents and Kids:

- Child care is available during the worship service for children 6 years old and younger. Please see a greeter or another parent for the passcode for the child care area.
- Worship bags for kids can be found by the table on the screen side of the sanctuary.
- Books for kids can be found by the table at the back of the pews.
- Faith Formation for Families (kids, parents, grandparents, caregivers) happens monthly after worship. Connect with Ann Deibert for more information.

#### Our Church



**Matthew 25** ([pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)) We have committed to building congregational vitality, dismantling systemic racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.



**Peacemaking** ([pcusa.org/peacemaking](http://pcusa.org/peacemaking))



**More Light** ([mlp.org](http://mlp.org)). We welcome the full participation of LGBTQ+ people of faith in the life, ministry, and witness of the Presbyterian Church.



**Four for Four** We support Presbyterian mission around the corner and around the globe through the four church-wide Special Offerings.

**Choice Congregation** We support the rights of all people to access the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare choices without coercion or judgment.

#### Our Staff

Pastor – Rev. Dr. Ann J. Deibert [ann@centralchurchky.org](mailto:ann@centralchurchky.org)

Director of Music – Mr. Phillip Morgan [phillip@centralchurchky.org](mailto:phillip@centralchurchky.org)

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In-person office hours:

Mondays 10am—1:00pm, Wednesdays 2:30pm—5:30pm, Fridays 10am—2pm

Other times by appointment