

 The congregation is invited to read/sing the **bold font**.

*Indicates the congregation may stand unannounced.

Amplification devices to assist with hearing are available at the sound booth.

THE APPROACH TO GOD

PRELUDE "Wondrous Love"
Traditional American Melody

CALL TO WORSHIP Lamentations 3:22-23 (NJB)

The words of the prophet call us to worship.

"This is what I shall keep in mind and so regain some hope:

Surely the Lord's mercies are not over,

God's deeds of faithful love not exhausted;

every morning they are renewed;

great is God's faithfulness."

*SONG OF WORSHIP #72 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,

we confess that we are prone to fall into one of two extremes—

despair that the world is spiraling out of control

and there is nothing we can do about it—

or hope that, through human ingenuity and resolve,

we can rely on progress to solve the world's deepest issues.

Forgive us for the ways we fall into utter despondency,

and forgive us for believing the myth of progress

as a solution to our most vexing problems.

Led by sanctuary choir:

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Christe. **Christe.** Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Kyrie. **Kyrie.** Eleison. **Eleison.**

Please observe a brief moment of silence for personal reflection and confession.

Gracious God,

empower us by your Spirit to be a people of hope—

people who hold fast to your steadfast love and faithfulness

in the midst of a senseless, chaotic, and broken world.

Embolden us to lament—to name the world's pain,

to imagine a world in which there is no more pain,

and to hope in the abundance of your steadfast love

to redeem, reconcile, and restore all of creation.

In Christ we pray. Amen.

CHORAL ASSURANCE "O Love"
Elaine Hagenberg

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation, bless your children.

You are God's beloved child. With you, God is well pleased.

*SONG OF PREPARATION "How Long, O Lord, How Long (Psalm 13)"

O Lord our God to you we come

Will you still hide your face

We cry before you and on our knees we pray

How long O Lord how long

CHORUS

Till your glory fills our eyes

And our faith is turned to sight

Till our thirsty souls are satisfied

How long O Lord how long

Our sorrows leave us weak and worn

Injustice seems to reign

Lord we are shaken and we are losing strength

How long O Lord how long *CHORUS*

But we will trust your steadfast love

your grace will be our song

you bring new mercies with ev'ry rising sun

How long O Lord how long *CHORUS*

SCRIPTURE & SERMON Lamentations 3:1-33
"Lament as . . . Hope"

THE RESPONSE TO GOD

*SONG OF LAMENT "Have Mercy"

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

O Lord have mercy. O Lord have mercy. *REPEAT*

*Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary
are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

*SONG OF RESPONSE #424 "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

*Tithes/offerings placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary
are brought forward as a sign of our response to God's call on our lives.*

*ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING SONG "My Friends, May You Grow in Grace"

*The congregation is invited to stand and turn toward the center aisle,
blessing one another in song.*

My friends, may you grow in grace,

and in the knowledge of our Lord, and Savior.

My friends, may you grow in grace,

and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

To God be the glory, now and forever, now and forever, amen.

*POSTLUDE "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
by William M. Runyan, setting by Douglas E. Wagner

CCLI #11312016; One License #742124-A

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A SECOND
 Actually, it may take 60 seconds, but check out the info below.

Welcome--we're so glad you've come to worship with us! If you're looking for a church to call your own, we hope you'll return another Sunday to get to know us even better. SRC values history and tradition as well as creativity and innovation. We try not to take ourselves too seriously. Most of all, we're a congregation where anyone can belong just as they are. God welcomes all. And so do we.

INTERESTED IN RECEIVING SRC EMAILS?

Please email Rachel at rachel@2refpella.org to sign up to receive SRC's weekly newsletter (*On Second Thoughts*) and other important announcements. Archived copies of the weekly newsletters are on SRC's website.

PREFER TO GIVE ONLINE?

Secure online giving is now available through our financial record-keeping program (Apos) and its payment processing provider (Stripe). You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations. Access SRC's online giving page using this QR code or by going to <https://app.aplos.com/aws/give/SecondReformedChurch/General>. Thank you for your generous support of SRC's mission!



CREATION CARE CLASS

The SRC Education Council is offering a four-session course this spring entitled "Creation Care and the Responsibilities of Christian Communities in a Time of Global Disruption."

- **Tuesday, March 10th** (7:00pm, Gathering Space) Jim Zaffiro will speak on "The Global Context of Creation Care and Climate Justice"
- **Tuesday, March 24th** (7:00pm, Gathering Space) Pastor Katie will speak on "Biblical Foundations of Earth Stewardship and Climate Justice"
- **Tuesday, April 7th** (TBA) "Personal, Congregational, and Community Action Opportunities for Earth Stewardship and Climate Justice in Iowa"
- **Sunday, April 12th** (worship) Guest Preacher Rev. Carla Stoltzfus Detweiler "Who is My Neighbor?"

Feel free to invite friends from the community who would be interested in learning about creation care, climate justice, and how our faith can guide meaningful action.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF March 8, 2026

TODAY

- 9:45 am Worship Service
- 11:00 am MS & HS Youth Group to Iowa Wolves
- 11:15 am Pizza Lunch
- 4:00 pm Handbell Choir

MONDAY

- 6:30 pm Council Meetings

TUESDAY

- 2:00 pm Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation

WEDNESDAY

- 3:45 pm Second Kids
- 5:30 pm Congregational Meal
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:45 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Handbell Choir

Greeters: Scott & Miles Tjeerdsma, Cyndi Atkins, Nancy VanderBroek, Ed Willis
 Next Week: Lee Collins

Nursery: Neriah Hardeman, Liz Wilner
 Next Week: Liz Wilner, Mike Filippini

Storyteller: Rinnah Hardeman, Ann Visser
 Next Week: Family Worship--No Children & Worship

Barista: Pete & Cindy Peterson
 Next Week:

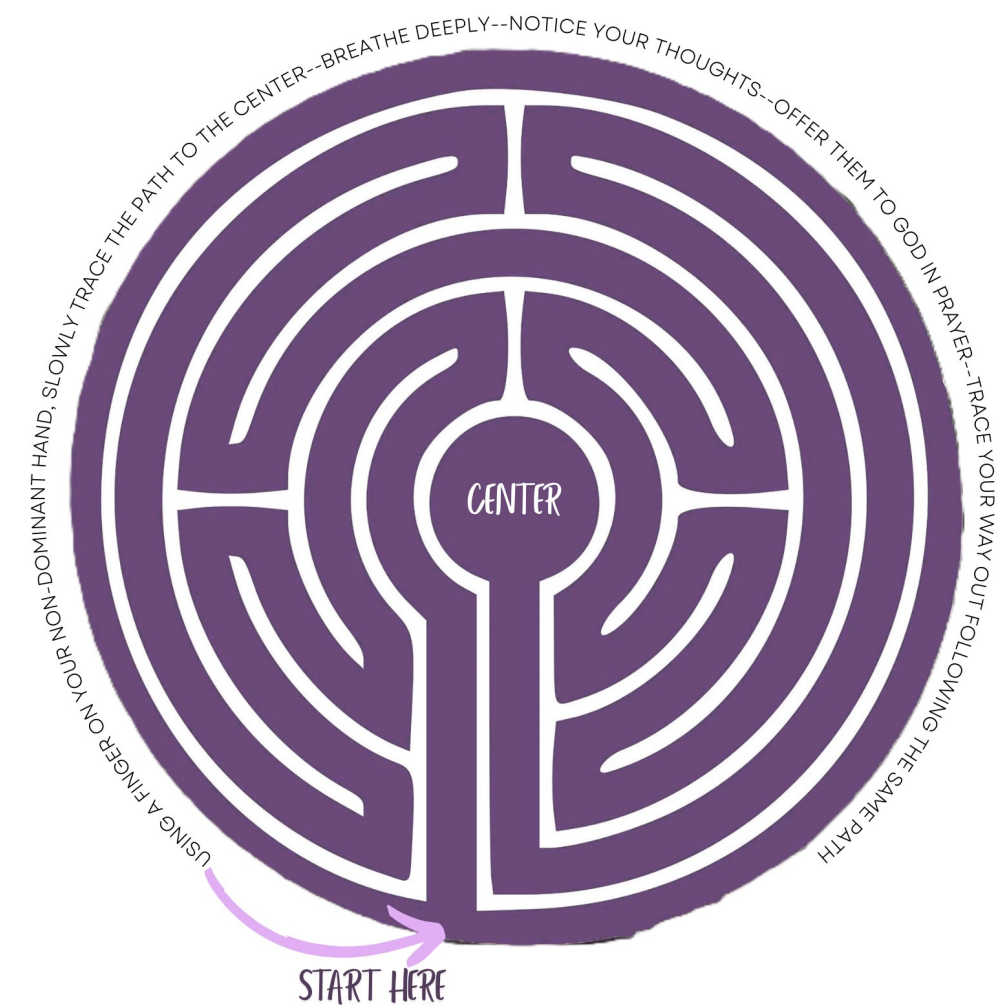
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Kellee Van Hemert	Worship Support Liaison	kellee@2refpella.org
Shane Rouw	Facilities Coordinator	shane@2refpella.org

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for pastoral care outside of normal office hours, call Mike or Elizabeth at home: 641-619-5350

Second Reformed Church

SECOND REFORMED CHURCH



Third Sunday of Lent
 March 8, 2026 - 9:45 am

ENGAGE THE SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday (February 18) to Maundy Thursday (April 2)

WORSHIP SERMON SERIES

For Lent this year, we are spending time in the poetry of Lamentations as we explore the practice of lament. This practice of spiritual renewal invites us closer to God and to one another as we wonder about what it means to live faithfully in challenging and uncertain times. Lamentations shows us how to tell the truth about loss, grief, and pain—personally and communally, while also holding onto hope—hope that endures even when the future is uncertain and unknown.

NAMING GRIEF & SHARING HOPE (February 22—March 29)

All ages and stages are invited to participate in naming grief, loss, hardship and sharing signs of hope as we create our Lenten art display together. Look for the table located in the Gathering Space to find out how you can participate.

WEEKLY LENTEN PRACTICES

Each Sunday consider engaging the “Learning to Lament” suggestions for reflection and practice in the bulletin.

A SIMPLE PRAYER PRACTICE

Take note of the marble baptismal font near the center doors of the sanctuary. During Lent, all are invited to touch the water when entering and/or leaving the sanctuary each week while practicing this breath prayer:*

INHALE: May my life reflect this truth, O God...

EXHALE: All are beloved. All belong.

*Use this ancient spiritual practice anytime, anywhere to connect with God:

- ⇒ Choose any two brief statements to pray.
- ⇒ Inhale deeply, filling your lungs, and pray the first line aloud or silently.
- ⇒ Exhale slowly and pray the second line aloud or silently.
- ⇒ Repeat as desired to center yourself.

PALM TO PASSION SUNDAY (9:45AM on March 29)

Mark the beginning of Holy Week with a journey that takes us from cheers of “Hosanna!” to cries of “Crucify!” during our Palm to Passion Service. This service includes an intergenerational Procession of the Palms. All are invited to participate!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE (6:30PM on April 2)

Join the SRC community for this service of remembrance and communion that marks the end of Lent.

LEARNING TO LAMENT: HOPE

Week 3

REFLECTIVE PROMPT

What truth about God do you need to call to mind when hope feels thin?

ACTIVE PRACTICE

Remember God's mercy. Make a short “remembering list” of moments you have glimpsed God's mercy or signs of hope in your life and the world.

Begin each day with this breath prayer:

INHALE: Your mercies are new this morning.

EXHALE: Help me see your mercy.

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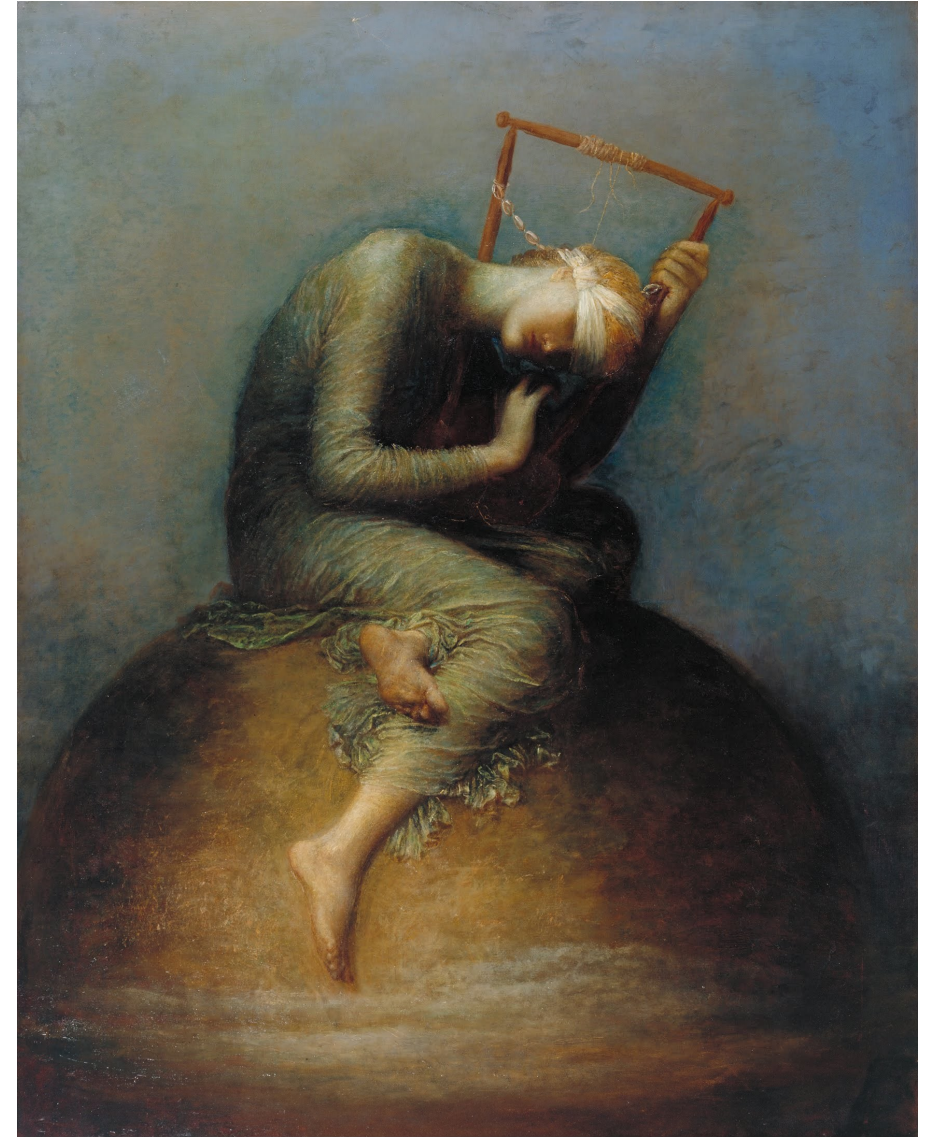
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"Hope" by George Frederick Watts, 1886



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