



11:00 a.m. Worship • March 17, 2024

Exploring Faith. Changing Lives.

Sardis Presbyterian Church is an inclusive congregation called to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to impact the world by:



PRAISING God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer



LEARNING about God's will for our lives



LOVING one another unconditionally



SERVING neighbors near and far



SHARING the gifts with which we have been blessed



WITNESSING to the Good News of Jesus Christ to provide hope for the world.

We are honored that you chose to worship God with us this morning. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to help you explore the possibility that Sardis is the place God is calling you to worship and serve.

WORSHIP



March 17, 2024

WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER

† Rise in body or in spirit.

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This
Jubilate Ringers

arr. Page

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin

- † CALL TO WORSHIP with hymn #399 Vicky Jaus
Choir Sings: God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends.
Leader: Have you ever questioned, "Do I belong?" Have you ever wondered,
"Will I be accepted?" Have you ever worried, "Can I be myself?"
**People: Come, let us worship the God that reminds us that all
are welcomed, all are loved.**
**All Sing: God welcomes all, strangers and friends,
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

- † HYMN #301 Let Us Build a House *Two Oaks*
verses 1,2,4,5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Dorothy Williams
**Loving and Gracious God, forgive us for the times we have sinned by
what we have done or left undone and by what we have said or left
unsaid. We have drawn lines that divide and made rules that exclude.
We have questioned if others belonged and failed to share the good
news of God's love for all. We have withheld our treasures, been slow
to welcome those we see as outsiders, resisted your transformation,
and refused the leading of your Spirit. Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive our sins and renew us by your Spirit to walk in your ways, so
that we might have boldness to speak and enact your love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

- † RESPONSE #341 verse 1 O God, Show Mercy to Us *Thaxted*
**O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
And cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,
So that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
And unto every people your saving grace be shown.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing;
In every land let praises and songs of gladness ring.**

ANTHEM The Word Was God Powell
Agape Singers

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

John Waller

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 8:26-40 (CEB)

SERMON What's to Prevent Me From Belonging? Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf

THE CHAPEL
(through the doors to
left of the pulpit) is
available, with audio
of the worship
service, for those who
need it (e.g. families
with young children,
those with health
challenges, etc.).

* * *

HEARING
ASSISTANCE
DEVICES with
disposable ear
coverings are
available. Please
speak with an usher
and they will provide
one for you.

* * *

LARGE PRINT
BULLETINS AND
HYMNS are available.
Please see an usher
for assistance.

* * *

WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBILITY is
provided in the main
body of the
Sanctuary, on the side
aisles on the seventh
pew, and in the
transept area. A
handicap unisex
bathroom is located
in the left rear
hallway.

* * *

PASTORAL
EMERGENCIES:
After hours and on
weekends or holidays,
please call the church
office and leave a
message, including a
call-back number. A
Pastor will be in
touch with you
shortly.

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Brief Statement of Faith PCUSA (1983) Hasty Millen
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

THE PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY All Things New Hagenberg
 Light after darkness, gain after loss, Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
 Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, home after wandering, praise after tears. Alpha
 and Omega, beginning and the end, He is making all things new, springs of living
 water shall wash away each tear. He is making all things new. Sight after mystery,
 sun after rain, Joy after sorrow, peace after pain; near after distant, gleam after
 gloom, Love after loneliness, life after tomb.

Sanctuary Choir

† Response #643 verse 3 Now Thank We All Our God *Nun Danket Alle Gott*
**All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
 To Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
 The one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
 The God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Amanda Hooks

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Confirmands
 Profession of Faith
 Questions to the Congregation
 Sacrament of Baptism

Elder Brett Harris

Elder Allen Perry

PRAYER AND THE 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.

† HYMN #754

Help Us Accept Each Other

Baronita

The Ushers today are members of the Worship ministry.

The Liturgists today are mentors to the 2024 Confirmation Class.

* * *

We have several offering options for you!

Option 1: Make a credit card gift online using your mobile device: go to sardis.org and click on "Make a Gift Now"

Option 2: Text 'Sardis + amount' to 73256 (e.g. 'Sardis 100' = \$100)

Option 3: Click the QR code here to go directly to the secure online form.



Option 4: Place your offering in the offering plate.

Thank you for your gifts and support of Sardis Presbyterian Church.

* * *

We provide an open space for children four and under to experience all aspects of our worship services in ways that meet their developmental and spiritual needs. All are welcome to worship alongside our youngest worshipers and their families! Please see one of the pastors or an Usher if you have any questions about the space.

† BENEDICTION AND PASSING OF THE PEACE
Leader: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Dr. Schaaf

*Let's pass that peace with one another before we follow Jesus
by carrying it out into the world.*

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Hyfrydol*

Prichard

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Austin Dean

Lane Deerkoski

*Natalie Klug**

VannDutch Marek

Lauren Newman

Patrick Spangler

Ryan Sumwalt

**also receiving the
Sacrament of Baptism*



THIS WEEK AT SARDIS

Sunday, March 17

9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship	Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m.	Sunday School	Various rooms
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	WAM	Ed Hall

Tuesday, March 19

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Brinson)	Room 210
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Wednesday, March 20

12:00 p.m.	Pilgrim's Progress study	Room 213
7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Martin)	Room 210
7:30 p.m.	Coventry Ringers	Bell Room

Thursday, March 21

10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Martin)	Room 210
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Admin Choir room

Saturday, March 23

8:30 a.m.	Rama Beautification Day	Rama Rd. Elem.
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Check your Sunday and Wednesday emails or sardis.org
for more events, activities, and Zoom links.

Holy Week Schedule

March 24 - Palm Sunday: worship at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

March 28 - Maundy Thursday: worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

March 29 - Good Friday: worship at 12:00 noon at St. Stephen UMC; Dr. Schaaf preaching

March 31 - Easter Sunday: worship at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Bring flowers for the Easter cross!



*The flowers today are given
to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Benjamin Franklin Green, Jr.
by the Green family.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Del Barnhill Memorial Scholarship provides one \$2000 scholarship each year to a high school senior active in youth ministry at Sardis. The application is available at bit.ly/DelBarnhillScholarship until March 31. Questions? Contact Betsy Kelly at betsy.kelly@sardis.org.

Ordination and Installation for Sara Martin is TODAY at 4:00 p.m. at Edgewood Presbyterian in Sanford. All are invited to attend in person or view the service on Edgewood's facebook page at a later time.

Ring the bell! Help us communicate to the Lord and the community our excitement at His coming and the celebration of Easter by ringing the church bell during Lent. Visit bit.ly/sardisbell to sign up for a date and time. Contact Paul Green (pmgreen1952@gmail.com) with questions.

A Book of My Own donations are due March 20. Please join Sardis in providing books for summer reading for Rama students. Each \$5 donation buys a book for a student; a donation of \$100 supplies an entire class. Your donations are needed and appreciated as we support the continued development of critical reading skills for our Rama friends. Donations made be made online or mailed to the church office.

Rama Road Beautification Day is March 23. Work alongside Rama families from 8:30 a.m. until noon to spruce up the elementary school campus. Bring your own gloves and yard equipment.

Purchase Easter Flowers to adorn our Sanctuary. Visit sardis.org/easter-flower-sale to choose calla lilies, begonias or kalanchoe in honor of or in memory of friends and loved ones. Each 6" potted plant is \$22.50; they can be picked up after service or delivered to Sardis members who need extra care and connection. Orders are due by Wednesday March 20. Questions? Contact Alice Glefke (a1engraver@yahoo.com).

(A7) C7 (G7) B \flat 7 (D) F

like pre-cious oil, like fresh morn - ing dew. We

(D) F (G) B \flat (F \sharp) A (Bm) Dm

gath-er here to - geth-er with our hearts and voic-es raised to

(G) B \flat (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F

God, who's the cen-ter of our u - ni - ty and praise!

God Welcomes All

399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B \flat C Dm



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B \flat F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B \flat

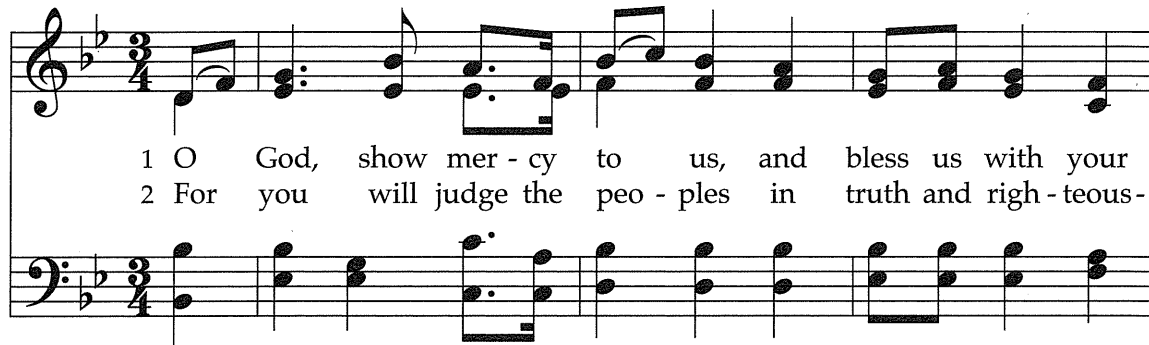


vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

341 O God, Show Mercy to Us

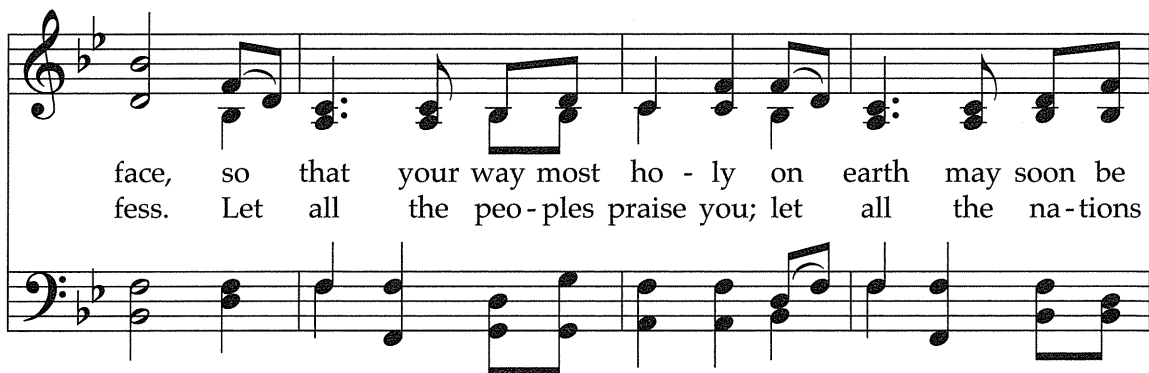
(Psalm 67)



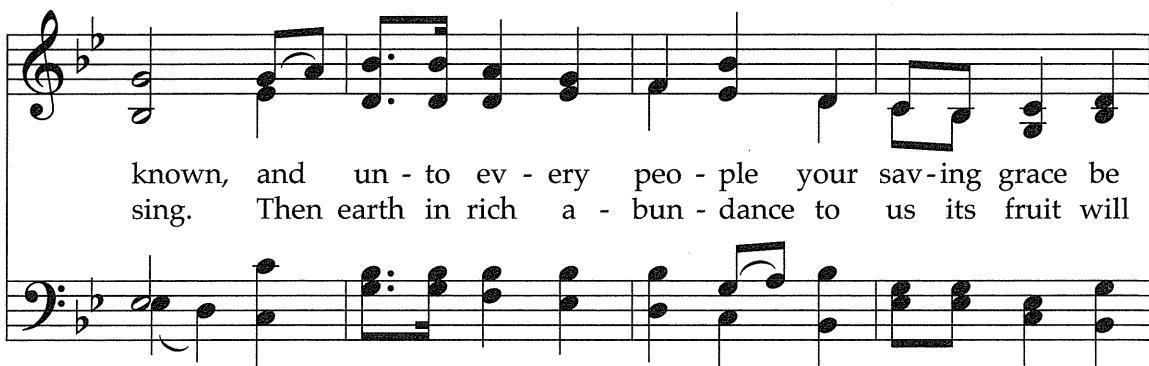
1 O God, show mer - cy to us, and bless us with your
2 For you will judge the peo - ples in truth and righ - teous -



grace; and cause to shine up - on us the bright-ness of your
ness, and on the earth all na - tions will your just rule con -



face, so that your way most ho - ly on earth may soon be
fess. Let all the peo - ples praise you; let all the na - tions

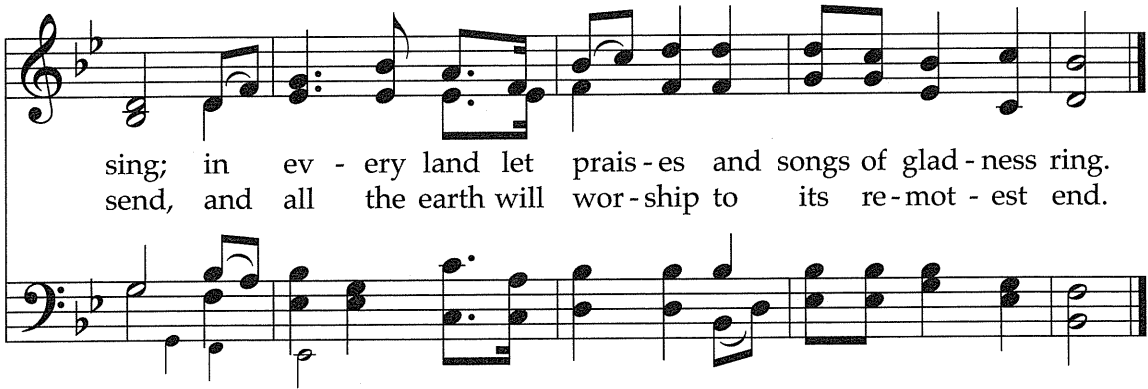


known, and un - to ev - ery peo - ple your sav - ing grace be
sing. Then earth in rich a - bun - dant to us its fruit will

As this paraphrase shows, Psalm 67 combines many themes: a communal prayer for blessing, a prayer for all people to acknowledge God, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. In Jewish practice it was recited at the end of every Sabbath, a reminder of God's universal sovereignty.



shown. Let all the peo-ples praise you; let all the na - tions
bring. The Lord our God will bless us; our God will bless - ing

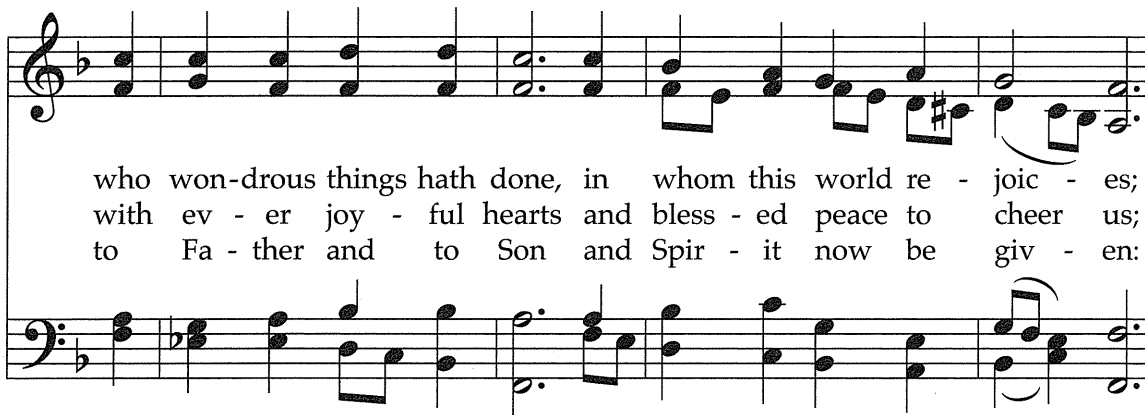


sing; in ev - ery land let prais - es and songs of glad - ness ring.
send, and all the earth will wor - ship to its re - mot - est end.

643 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

G Em F#m Bm

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

E E7 A E A A7

loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

Help Us Accept Each Other 754

G Em Am7 B7 C

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C G A A7 D

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G Em Am7 B7 C

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

C G Em D7 G

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.