









11:00 a.m. Worship • February 23, 2025

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



February 23, 2025

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. Additionally, Sardis now has a hearing loop in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid has a t-coil, please sit in the main section of the sanctuary to take advantage of this technology.

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.

Welcome to our guest organist, Lois Buesser!

WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER

† Rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Beautiful Savior Robert A. Hobby

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin

MINUTE FOR MISSION Earth Care Ed Shoaf

† CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Martin

Leader: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come into God's presence with singing!

People: For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

† HYMN #645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above Mit Freuden Zart

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Dr. Martin
Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Dr. Martin
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† RESPONSE#582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me Vasile
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end, amen. (repeat 3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Dr. Martin

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Dr. Martin
Mary Claire Luzum Steve Hoots, Assisting Elder

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Dr. Martin

SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 12:1-2 Dr. Martin
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON If I Am Being Honest... Dr. Martin

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of
Barbara Dorricott
by the Vernon and Janice Mai.*



RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open My Eyes

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From a Brief Statement of Faith (1983) Dr. Martin
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 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 the 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Martin

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.

THE PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERING

Dr. Martin

Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering basket.

OFFERTORY

True Light

Keith Hampton

Sanctuary Choir

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.
In the beginning out of the darkness, God created Light.
He lives in us as True Light.
Don't let the light that You've given me die, and don't desert my mind,
But let the one who serves You praise You again and again.
You are the one who judges right from wrong.
Your glory excites no envy.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know,
God gave the world True Light!

† DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow
**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.**

Old Hundredth

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dr. Martin

SENT BY THE WORD

† HYMN #450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

† BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Martin

Leader: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D

John Alcock

The Ushers today are members of the Fellowship Ministry.

* * *

Dr. Schaaf is on the Women's Retreat this weekend.

* * *

God's children of all ages are welcome in worship! Children's worship activity bags can be found at the front entrance and in the younger children's worship space. The open space in the front right is provided for children 5 and under to experience all aspects of worship in ways that meet their developmental needs. Audio of the service can be heard in the Chapel if you and your child need to step out for a bit and the nursery is also open during worship for children 5 years and younger in the Education Building. Ask an usher if you need directions and speak with one of the pastors or Amanda Hooks if you have questions about how best to include your child in the experience of worship.

* * *

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.



THIS WEEK AT SARDIS

Sunday, February 23

3:00 p.m.	Room In the Inn	Sardis House
4:30 p.m.	Youth Bells and Choir	Admin. Building
5:00 p.m.	WAM and Dinner	Rm 205 & Ed Hall
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Ed Hall

Monday, February 24

7:00 p.m.	Session & Diaconate Mtg.	Sardis House
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Tuesday, February 25

9:00 a.m.	Yoga	Sardis House
10:00 a.m.	Exploring the Bible	Room 210

Wednesday, February 26

3:00 p.m.	Room In The Inn	Sardis House
7:00 p.m.	Apostles' Creed Study	Room 210 & Zoom
7:00 p.m.	High School Bible Study	Off Campus
7:30 p.m.	Coventry Ringers	Bell Room

Thursday, February 27

9:00 a.m.	Yoga	Sardis House
10:00 a.m.	Apostles' Creed Study	Room 210 & Zoom
6:30 p.m.	Throne Together	Choir Room
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room

SARDIS STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin, IV	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Allysén Schaaf	Associate Pastor
John B. Nipe	Technical Arts Coordinator
Betsy Williams	Director of Youth Ministry
Amanda Hooks	Children's Ministry Coordinator
Beth Williams	Contemporary Worship Leader
Susan W. Chowning	Parish Aide
Kristen Suh	Director of Weekday School
Amy Read	Financial Manager
Leigh Anne Duncan	Director of Operations
Nikki L. Bolton	Director of Communications
Danelle R. Kime	Membership & Pastoral Care Coordinator
Blake Blackman	Operations Assistant
Mark J. Slimmer	Director of Facilities
J. Alfredo Mendoza	Facility Team
Dennis G. Easter	Facility Team
Sam R. Johnson	Facility Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday worship service will be March 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online. Join us as we partner with our neighbors at Sardis Baptist Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Bell Ringing During Lent— Help us communicate to the Lord and community our excitement of His coming and the celebration of Easter by ringing the church bell each day during Lent. This can be done by an individual, family, friends, or a group. Use the QR code below to access the Sign-Up Genius where you will find all necessary information and instructions. You can also sign up at sardis.org under the Serving tab, then In The Church.

Elementary Children "Late-Over" Movie

Night: Friday, February 28 at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Sardis House - Kindergarten - 5th graders are invited to come enjoy all the sleepover fun without the sleeping! We will have dinner, play games, watch a movie, and load up on popcorn! Questions? Email Amanda Hooks at amanda.hooks@sardis.org.

Youth Parent & Grandparent Programming:

Sunday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 210 - Parents and grandparents of middle and high school youth are invited to join us for dinner and a conversation about mental health and substance use with two clinicians from Southeast Psych - Dr. David Mosley, Psy.D., and Dr. Amy Siegel, Psy.D. What is the brain chemistry behind substance use/addiction? Why do young people use substances? What are best practices for opening this conversation with young people? How can we support someone who is in recovery? Use the QR code below to register or at sardis.org.

Roof Above Soup Kitchen: Sardis volunteers are needed now more than ever to help serve our neighbors in need of a warm meal. Wear your Sardis Serves Together shirt and sign up for the soup kitchen on the 4th Saturday of every month. Use the QR code below to sign up.

Lenten Book Study: March 12/13 - April 9/10 Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 201 & Zoom - Join us this Lent for an inspiring book study on earth care! We'll be reading "Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World" by Katherine Hayhoe, a renowned climate scientist and Christian. Free copies are available at the church office, or find the book at the public library or on Amazon. Come explore how we can make a difference in caring for our planet while building bridges across divides. All are welcome – bring friends and neighbors!

Sardis Sign-Up Genius! Use this QR code to access any and all Sardis Sign-Ups.



645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all
 2 What God's al-might - y power has made God's gra - cious mer -
 3 The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but, through all grief
 4 Thus all my toil - some way a - long I sing a - loud

cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love,
 cy keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
 dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay,
 thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song

the God of our sal - va - tion. With
 God's watch - ful eye ne'er sleep - eth. With -
 our peace and joy and bless - ing, as
 my voice un - wea - ried rais - es. Be

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and ev - ery faith - less
 in the king - dom of God's might, lo! all is just and
 with a moth - er's ten - der hand God gent - ly leads the
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,

The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

mur - mur stilled:
all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
cho - sen band:
take your part:

Sing Out, My Soul

Magnificat

646

G C D7 G (chords continue)
* * *
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul. Sing out and
Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi -
glo - ri - fy the Lord who sets us free. Sing out, my soul.
cat a - ni - ma me - a Do - mi - num. Ma - gni - fi - cat.
Sing out, my soul. Sing out and glo - ri - fy the Lord God!
Ma - gni - fi - cat. Ma - gni - fi - cat a - ni - ma me - a!

*May be sung as a canon.

This canonic chant from the Taizé Community is based on the opening phrase of Mary's song when she visited her relative Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-56). Both Eastern and Western churches have used the full text for many centuries as part of daily prayers.

Open My Eyes, That I May See 451

1 O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me.
 2 O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear.
 3 O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev-ery-where.

Place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un - clasp and
 And while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev - ery-thing false will
 O - pen my heart, and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren

set me free. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 dis - ap-pear. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy
 thus to share. Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy

will to see. O - pen my eyes; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my ears; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!
 will to see. O - pen my heart; il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di-vine!

The first woman to publish a collection of her own anthems, this author/composer has created in this hymn a sung prayer for illumination. It not only asks God to help us understand Scripture but also prays for the strength and courage to make God's love known to others.

450

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.