







CREATED TO CARE



11:00 a.m. Worship • March 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



March 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.).

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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.

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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.

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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.

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WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER

† Rise in body or in spirit.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Reflection* Douglas Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf

† CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 63: 1-5 Dr. Schaaf

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Leader: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

People: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

All: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.

† HYMN #49 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Hymnal, page 4 Dr. Schaaf

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Dr. Schaaf

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† RESPONSE #581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Amanda Hooks

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 21: 8-21 Dr. Schaaf

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 4: 7-15 Dr. Martin

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Created to Care: Water Is Life Dr. Martin

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† 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.

† HYMN

Creator Of the Water

LANCASHIRE

1. **Creator of the water that makes the world so green,
That satisfies the thirsty, and keeps us cool and clean,
We take from your creation this gift we use each day;
You call us now to use it in this most holy way.**
2. **As in the time of Noah, the sea engulfed the land,
And through the Red Sea, Moses led Israel 'cross the sand,
And to the Jordan waters, Christ went and was baptized –
Your water has a power: it changes all our lives.**
3. **May this your gift of water, long springing from the earth,
Become for all new Christians their fountain of rebirth.
Lord, wash away their sinning, and give them life anew –
Pour out your Spirit on them, that they may follow you.**
4. **God, through your gift of water, your family we become;
You take away divisions; in Christ you make us one.
Now send your Spirit on us and give us work to do
That we may share with others the love we have from you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Schaaf

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. Schaaf

Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering basket.

OFFERTORY

*Beautiful Savior
Sanctuary Choir*

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows, Fairer the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorrowing spirit sing. Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine!

† 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 100th

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Dr. Martin

SENT BY THE WORD

† HYMN #182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

† 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

The God of Abraham Praise

arr. Michael Burkhardt

The Ushers today are members of the Life and Care ministry.

* * *

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.

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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.

*The flowers today are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of
Mildred Beck Phillips
by Sally Phillips.*





THIS WEEK AT SARDIS

Sunday, March 23

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

Monday, March 24

7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Room 210
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Tuesday, March 25

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

Wednesday, March 26

3:00 p.m.	Room In The Inn	Sardis House
7:00 p.m.	Saving Us Book Study	Room 210
7:00 p.m.	High School Bible Study	Off Campus
7:30 p.m.	Coventry Ringers	Admin Building

Thursday, March 27

9:00 a.m.	Yoga	Sardis House
10:00 a.m.	Saving Us Book Study	Room 210
6:30 p.m.	Throne Together	Choir Room
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room

PURSuing ORDINATION UNDER CARE OF SESSION:

Andrew Beals — Union Presbyterian Seminary
 Sarah Dianne Jones
 Jonathan Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Prayer Garden Worship Service: Join us Sunday, March 30 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. as we gather among the spring blooms on the South Lawn for an intimate outdoor worship service. Together we'll enjoy prayer and songs surrounded by the natural beauty of God's creation.

SPARK Family Dinner and WAM Olympics: Join us Sunday, April 6 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a special evening of food, fun, and fellowship! All families with children ages birth-5th grade are invited to enjoy dinner followed our WAM Olympics featuring relay races, games, and a joyful celebration to mark the end of our WAM program year! Nursery available for children 3 years and younger.

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.



CREATED TO CARE LENTEN PRACTICES



Bring your reusable water bottle and coffee cup to church



Unplug the chargers for your cellphone and laptop when you leave your home or office



Buy food from a local farmer's market



Check your tire pressure. Low tire pressure = higher fuel consumption



Participate in Earth Hour on March 22 by switching electricity off at 8:30 p.m.



Donate to offset your carbon use for longer trips or daily commutes at bit.ly/pcusareefund



Reduce waste by composting, shopping in bulk, and not using single-use plastics



Learn how many planets we need if everyone lived like you: bit.ly/gfnorg



Buy Fair Trade products for your easter baskets like chocolate & teas



Clean up litter in your community or along your favorite walking path or greenway



Consider planting plants that are native to NC in your yard



For the easter Cross, gather flowers and plants from around your yard



Walk or bike somewhere instead of driving



Support the circular economy by buying used, repair instead of replace, or donate items you no longer use

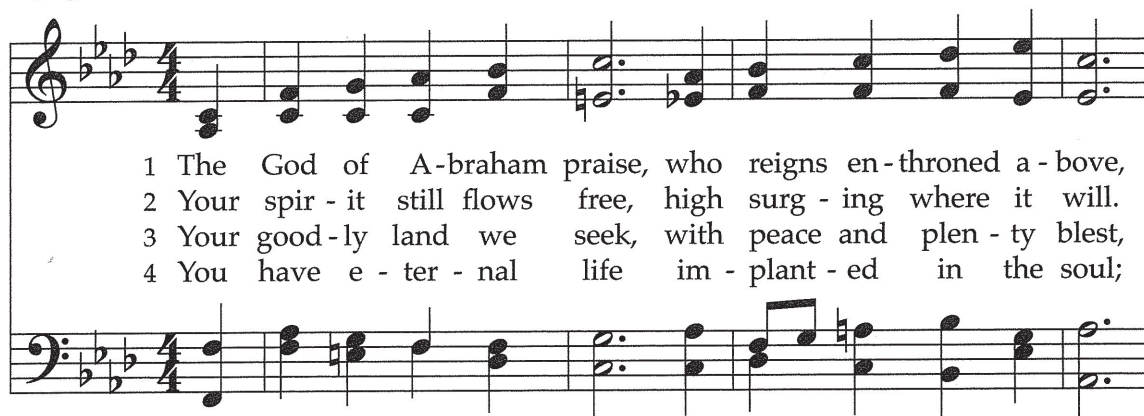


Reconnect with nature by taking a hike, going birding, or start a nature journal

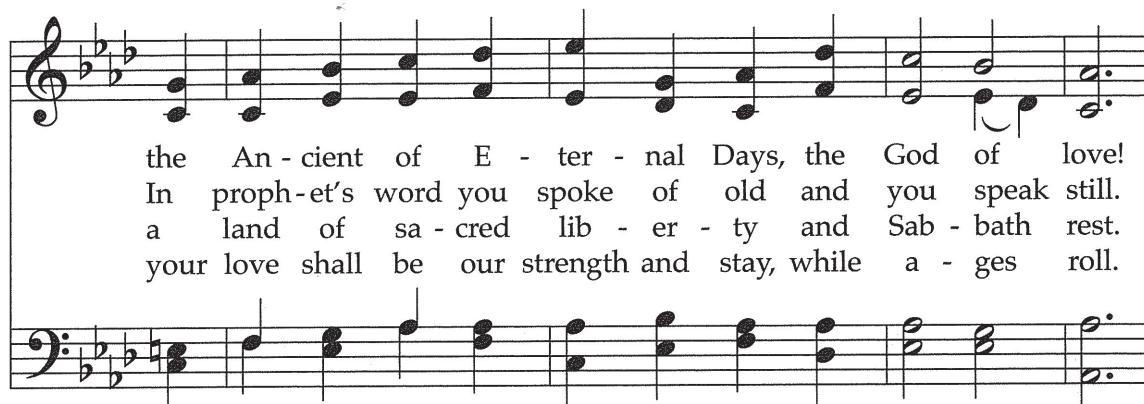


Visit the Sardis Prayer Garden after church on Sunday

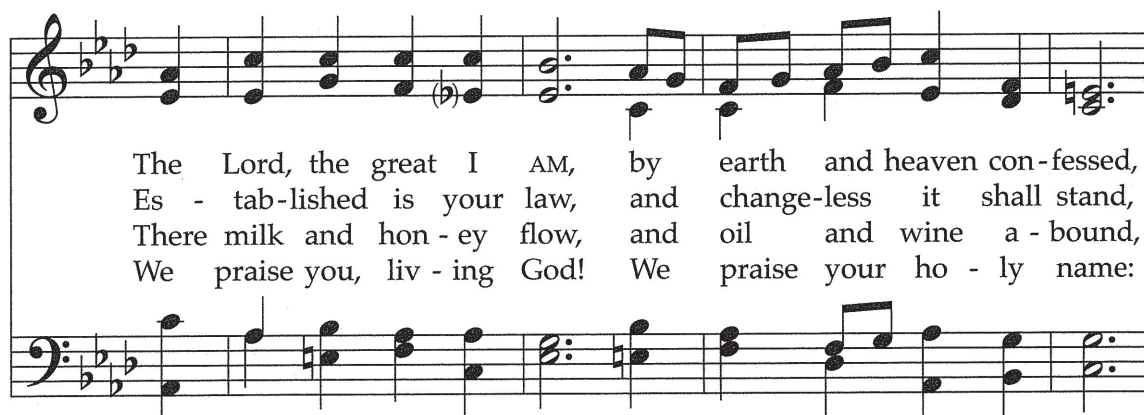
49 The God of Abraham Praise



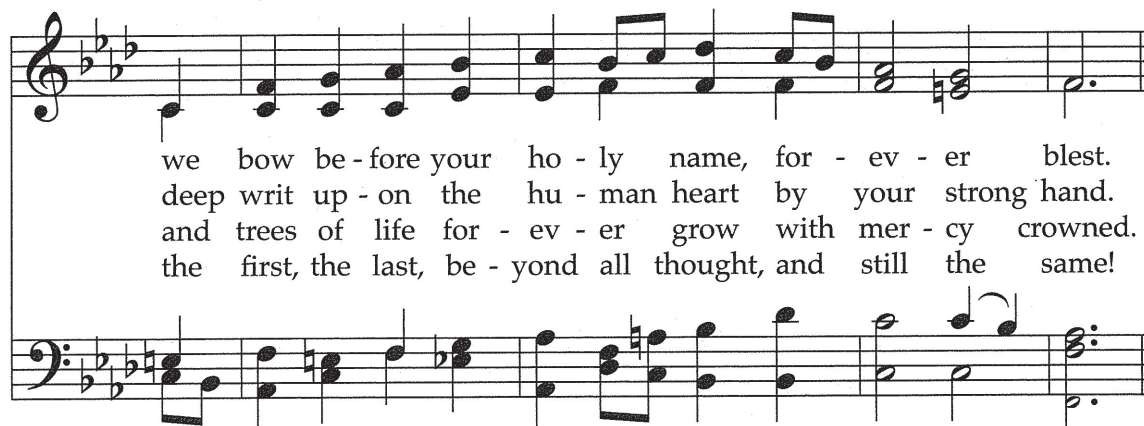
1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!

Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream; my
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav - eling days are done.

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).