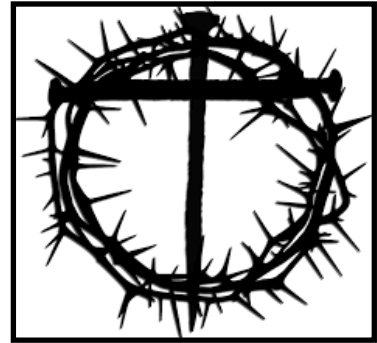
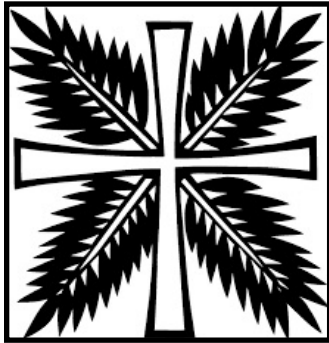


Christ Congregational Church

Upholding the evangelical and congregational tradition of the Reformed Faith since A.D. 2010



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 1, A.D. 2026

Call to Worship

The entrance tower bell and carillon bells are rung.

Organ Prelude

Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said — arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Minister: If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself;

Answer: **and take up his cross and follow me.**

✝ All shall stand for the processional hymn.

Processional Hymn 16

The God of Abraham Praise

✝ The congregation shall sit at the conclusion of the hymn.

Opening Prayer

The Reverend Randall K. Green

✝ Then shall the Lector read the first lesson.

Hear the first lesson, written in Genesis 12, vv. 1-4 (Pew Bible, pp. 8-9).

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

† The congregation shall stand for the *Gloria Patri*, the second lesson and the hymn, following.

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.

Hear the Gospel lesson, written in Luke 9, vv. 23-25 and 57-62 (Pew Bible, pp. 867-68).

And [Jesus] said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

57 As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” 58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” 59 To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” 60 And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” 61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” 62 Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Lector. The Gospel of the Lord.

Answer. **Praise be to Christ.**

Hymn 484

“Take Up Thy Cross,” the Savior Said

† The congregation shall be seated; then, the Lector will read the third lesson.

Hear the third lesson, written in Romans 4, vv. 1-5 and 13-17 (Pew Bible, pp. 941-42).

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.

13 For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon
The Call to Faith

✠ The people shall stand at the conclusion of the sermon; then shall the Lector lead *The Nicene Creed*.

Let us confess the Holy Faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, in accordance with the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ All shall remain standing for the singing of the *Doxology*.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye, heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠ The congregation shall sit for the Anthem.

Anthem

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah — Mary Ellen Kerrick (2013)

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thou powerful hand; Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; Strong Deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side; songs of praises, I will ever give to You! (William Williams, 1745).

✠ The *Prayers of the People* shall be offered, each petition ending with:

Intercessor: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever,

Answer: **Amen.**

† The prayers shall conclude with *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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

† Then shall the congregation stand for the recessional hymn and closing prayer.

Recessional Hymn 535

I Know Whom I Have Believed

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore.

Answer. **Amen.**

Organ Postlude

The God of Abraham Praise — arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)



WORSHIP LEADERS The Reverend Randall K. Green, *minister*; Mr. M. Todd Stracener, *lector*; *Christ Church Chorale*; Mr. David Lawson, *organist*; Mary Kathryn Stracener & Henry Springfield, *acolytes*.

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CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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