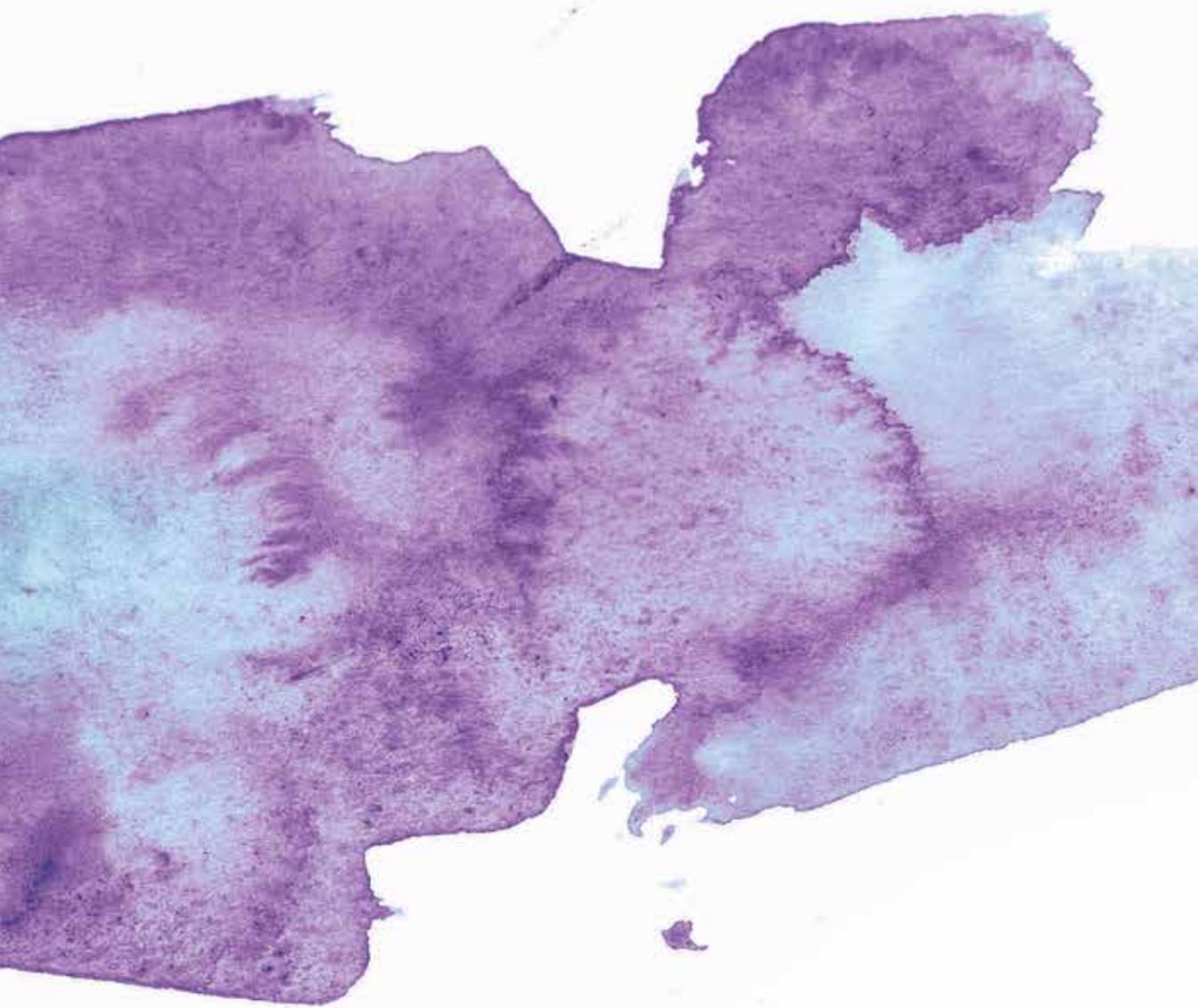


Spring Festival Music



L.A.M.

Sunday, March 22, 2026
8:30 & 11:15AM • Sanctuary





I AM

presented on

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

by

Northside Festival Choir & Festival Orchestra

Nathan Schreer, *Conductor*

Joshua McClure, *Organist*

Dr. James Johnson, *Narrator*

Rev. Dr. Bill Burch, *Senior Pastor*

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Darby and Athalia Coker, Darby Coker Jr., and Everette and Noble Bolinger by Stanley and Jane Coker.

† *Please rise in body or spirit when you see this symbol, and join in singing or reading aloud text in **bold**. So that utmost glory may be given to God, it is kindly requested that applause be held until the conclusion of the Sending Hymn.*

Listening to Christ in His Own Words

In Jesus Christ, God did not remain distant or hidden. The Lord stepped into our world, shared our life, and walked among us in love. As people encountered Jesus, they sensed they were witnessing more than a simple teacher or prophet. From the beginning of His ministry, those who met Jesus found themselves asking the most important question a person can ask: *Who is this man?*

The Gospel of John records Jesus' own answer to that question. Rather than offering a simple declaration about Himself, Jesus chose to speak words designed to reveal His mission and the very heart of God. Again and again He said, "I AM." With each declaration, Jesus shows us not only who He is, but what He offers to us.

In these words, Jesus names Himself as:

- the Bread of Life (*John 6:35, 41, 48, 51*)
- the Gate (*John 10:7, 9*)
- the Good Shepherd (*John 10:11, 14*)
- the Light of the World (*John 8:12*)
- the Way, the Truth, and the Life (*John 14:6*)
- the True Vine (*John 15:1, 5*)
- the Resurrection and the Life (*John 11:25*)

Together, these statements form a portrait of Christ that is both deeply personal and eternally true. The music you will hear this morning has been chosen to reflect and respond to each of these I AM statements. Like a service of lessons and song, the music and readings are woven together to tell a single story. As Jesus speaks in His own words, the choir and orchestra respond in prayer and praise, giving voice to the Church's wonder at the One who has come to save us.

All of these words lead us toward a final confession. The One who says "I AM" is the One whom the Church has named and worshiped for centuries. He is Jesus Christ, the Lord of life. As we listen this morning, may we be drawn not only to admire His words, but to trust Him more deeply and to follow Him more faithfully.

Thank you for being part of this service. May this time of listening and worship open our hearts to Christ's voice and draw us more fully into the life He offers.



Nathan Schreer
Director of Music



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THE CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP | Hymn of Praise | *Mack Wilberg*

Awake, arise and sing! Arise and sing all praise! O praise Him of endless days!
Rejoice, resound with joy! Resound with joyous praise! O Praise Him of endless days!
Awake, arise and sing! Resound with joyous praise! All praise to Him of endless days!
Come every noble son, ye daughters, every one, and sing a hymn of praise:
Glory to Him of endless days!

Let all the nations come, give glory to the Son, and now proclaim, "Alleluia!"
For He has justified, strengthened and sanctified, for on the cross our ransom paid.
Death's dark sting is gone, sin's mighty grip is done,
for Christ burst forth in conquering light, His love is given to the world!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord, and truth eternal is Thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.

Then enter in and rest, a ransomed royal guest, to feast upon the bread of Life!
And praise the Great I AM! Give glory to the Lamb,
who gathers all of Israel within the tabernacle where He dwells:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Then bear His precious name! Until our lives proclaim all praise and honor to our King,
who our salvation brings with healing in His wings!
Praise to God, our Father holy, and His Son, for us made lowly! Praise, O praise!
Pour forth this hymn of praise; Glory to God! Glory to Him of endless days! Amen!

Incorporating text by David Warner, Isaac Watts, and Thomas Ken

† THE HYMN OF ADORATION | Jesus Shall Reign | *setting by Duane Funderburk*

Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 To Je - sus end - less prayer be made, and end - less
 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring their grate - ful
 ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom spread from
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
 hon - ors to our King, an - gels de - scend with
 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men!

A SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG

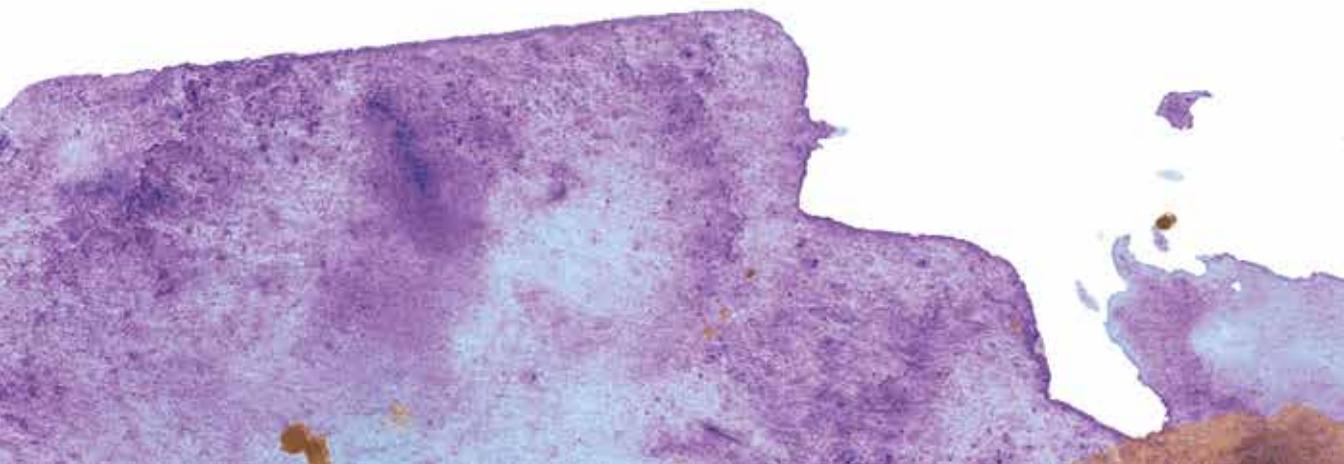
THE FIRST LESSON | The Word Made Flesh

Dr. James Johnson

God So Loved the World | *Dan Goeller*

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
 God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him, shall have everlasting life.
 For God sent not His Son to condemn the world,
 but that through Him the world might be saved.
 God so loved the world that whoever believes in Him, shall have everlasting life.
 God so loved the world.

John 3:16-17



I AM

The Bread of Life

Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Isaiah 55:2

Panis Angelicus | César Franck

This text by St. Thomas Aquinas was written in the 13th century for the Feast of Corpus Christi, celebrating Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Its simple words ask Jesus, the Bread of Heaven, to nourish His people with divine life. It serves as a reminder that the poor, the humble, and all those who serve are welcome at Christ's table.

Panis angelicus	<i>May the Bread of Angels</i>
Fit panis hominum	<i>Become bread for mankind;</i>
Dat panis coelicus	<i>The Bread of Heaven puts</i>
Figuris terminum	<i>All foreshadowings to an end;</i>
O res mirabilis	<i>Oh, thing miraculous!</i>
Manducat dominum	<i>The body of the Lord will nourish</i>
Pauper, pauper	<i>the poor, the poor,</i>
Servus et humilis	<i>the servile, and the humble.</i>

St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225–1274

I AM

The Gate for the Sheep

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

Psalm 118:19–20

The Eternal Gates | *arr. Howard Helvey*

Cecil Frances Alexander, author of “All Things Bright and Beautiful” and “Once In Royal David’s City,” was one of the most significant English hymn writers of the 19th century. She wrote this hymn tune as a meditation on Psalm 24. While the original Psalm celebrates God’s kingship entering Jerusalem, Alexander expands the image to include Christ’s victory, His return to the Father, and the hope of Heaven for all who follow Him.

The eternal gates lift up their heads, the doors are opened wide,
the King of glory is gone up unto his Father’s side.
And I’ll sing hallelujah, and you’ll sing hallelujah,
and we’ll all sing hallelujah when we arrive at home.

And ever on our earthly path a gleam of glory lies,
a light still breaks behind the cloud that veils Thee from the eyes.
And I’ll sing hallelujah, and you’ll sing hallelujah,
and we’ll all sing hallelujah when we arrive at home.

Lift up our hearts, lift up our minds, and let Thy grace be giv’n,
that, while we live on earth below, our treasure be in heav’n;
And I’ll sing hallelujah, and you’ll sing hallelujah,
and we’ll all sing hallelujah when we arrive at home.

That, where Thou art at God’s right hand, our hope, our love may be:
dwell in us now, that we may dwell for evermore in Thee.
And I’ll sing hallelujah, and you’ll sing hallelujah,
And we’ll all sing hallelujah, when we arrive at home.

Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

I AM

The Good Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd, in Him I lack nothing.
Psalm 23:1

“Sheep May Safely Graze” from *Cantata BWV 208* | *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful shepherd's sight.
Those who rule, with wisdom guiding,
Bring to hearts a peace abiding,
Bless a land with joy made bright.

Translation by Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Catherine Boothe Olson

THE LORD'S PRAYER | Our Father | *Craig Courtney*

Festival Treble Choir

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 and ever.
Amen.

Matthew 6:9–13

I AM

The Light of the World

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1

Let There Be Light | *Gilbert Martin*

This hymn text by J. Marriott was written in 1813, during a period of evangelical revival in England that emphasized spreading of the gospel to the whole world. The poem is a prayer, asking God to bring truth, healing, and sight to those living in spiritual darkness. Its repeated plea, "Let there be light," echoes the creation story in Genesis, where God's word first called light into being.

Thou, whose almighty Word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight:
Hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel's day sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring, on they redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind: O now, to all mankind,
Let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth thy flight;
Move o'er the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace; and in earth's darkest place,
Let there be light!

Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Grace, Love, and Might!
Boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride, through the world far and wide,
Let there be light!

John Marriott, 1780–1825

I AM

The Way, The Truth, and The Life

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6

† THE HYMN OF DEDICATION | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah | *arr. Duane Funderburk*

When directed, please stand and join in singing stanzas 1 and 3.



Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land; I am weak but,
O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow; let the fire and
When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side: bear me through the

Thou art might - y; hold me with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en,
cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer,
swell - ing cur - rent, land me safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, feed me till I want not more, feed me till I want no more.
strong De - liv - erer, be Thou still my strength and shield, be Thou still my strength and shield.
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

THE GIVING OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Rev. Angela House

Give online at www.NorthsideUMC.org/donate or text NorthsideATL to 73256.

THE INSTRUMENTAL OFFERTORY | Lead On, O King Eternal | *arr. Tim Fisher*

Festival Orchestra

This hymn was written in 1887 by Ernest W. Shurtleff as a "class hymn" for his graduation from Andover Theological Seminary. First sung at commencement, it was intended as a charge to his fellow graduates as they prepared to enter lives of ministry and service. While the music and text often evoke the idea of following a triumphant King, the hymn ultimately is a call to follow Christ in faithful service, love, and mercy.

I AM

The True Vine

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditate on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1:1–3

Make Me An Instrument | *Craig Courtney*

O Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
it is in dying we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi, 1181–1226

I AM

The Resurrection and The Life

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people's disgrace from all the earth. In that day they will say,
"Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."
Isaiah 25:8–9

And Can It Be | *Dan Forrest*

Festival Tenor & Bass Choir

Charles Wesley wrote this text in May of 1738 following a profound renewal of his faith, just days after his brother John experienced a similar spiritual awakening. In that moment, Wesley found deep assurance in God's grace and composed the words to this hymn, originally published under the title "Free Grace." The text invites us to share in his wonder at the boundless mercy of God: "Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for, O my God, it found out me.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

At the Name of Jesus | *Cindy Berry*

Jesus, though He was God did not cling to His rights as God,
 but laid aside His mighty power and glory. Taking the form of a servant, and becoming like man.
 He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross!

At the name of Jesus, ev'ry knee shall bow in heaven and in earth.
 That ev'ry knee shall bow, and ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!
 At the name of Jesus!

Adapted from Philippians 2:6-11

† THE SENDING HYMN | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | *setting by Mack Wilberg*

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 Women: Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - ing,
 Men: Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy works and de - fend thee;
 Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 bears thee on ea - gle wings, e'er in His keep - ing main - tain - ing.
 sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore Him!

All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near;
 God's care en - folds all, whose true good He up - holds.
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do,
 Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain,

join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 Hast thou not known His sus - tain - ing?
 who with His love doth be - friend thee.
 glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him.

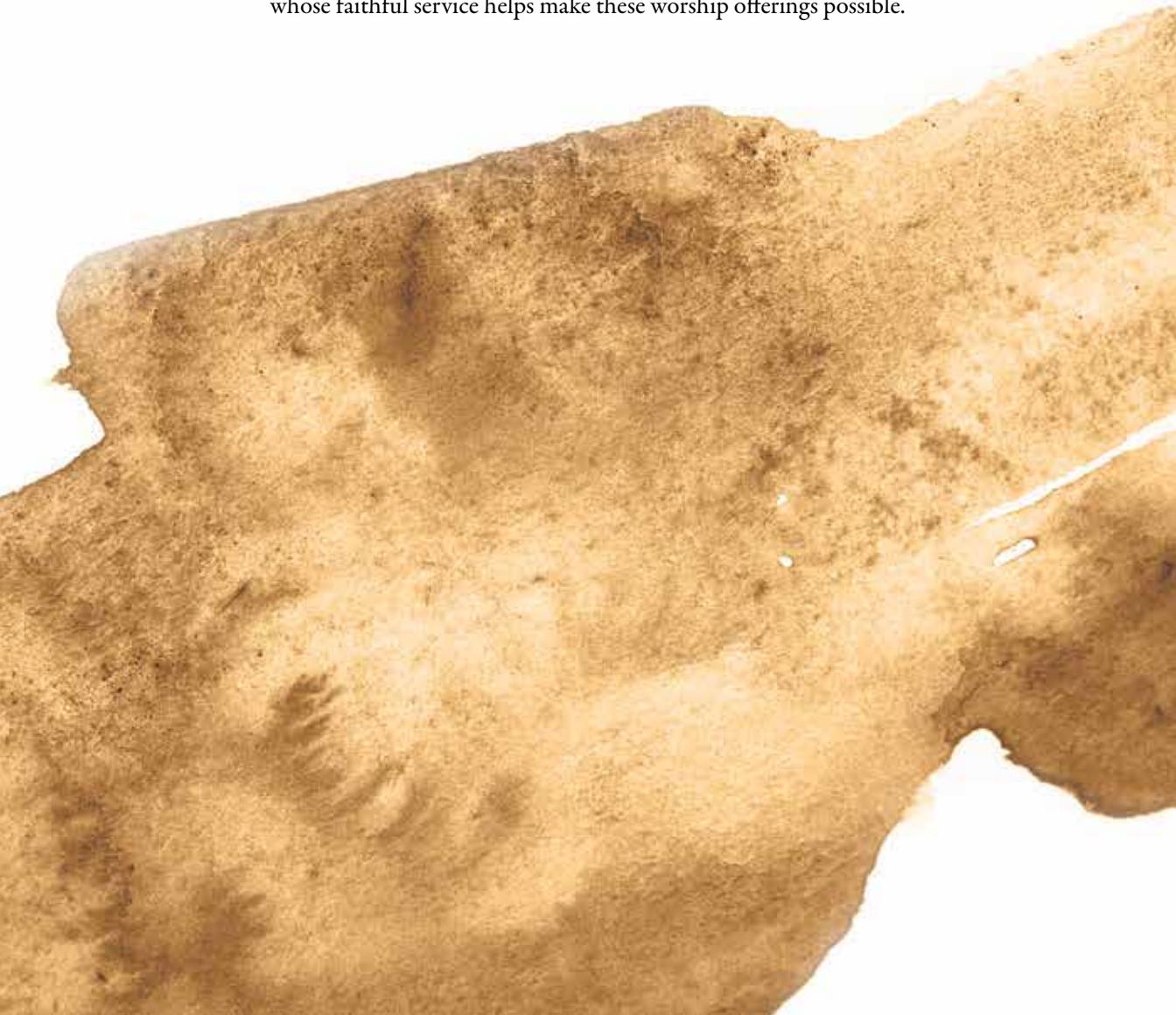
THE GIFT OF MUSIC

The Festival Choir is part of Northside's Music Ministry, bringing singers together to share their gifts in worship and to serve the church through music. We give thanks for the congregation, musicians, and volunteers whose shared faith and support sustain this ministry. If you would like to become involved in Northside's Music Ministry, we would be glad to connect with you. Please speak with a choir member or a member of the Music Ministry staff to learn more.

We are thankful for the generous support of the Northside Church Music Fund donors, whose gifts sustain special worship services and the ongoing work of our music ministry. If you would like to support this ministry, please consider a gift to the Music Fund as we continue this shared work.

To learn more about this program and the Scripture, theology, and music that shaped our "I AM" Spring Festival service, we invite you to view the March 8 Festival Preview presentation at www.NorthsideUMC.org/festivalpreview.

A special thank you to our Facilities, Production, and Creative Services teams, whose faithful service helps make these worship offerings possible.



THE FESTIVAL CHOIR

Paul Anderson	Kristen Gray	Carolyn Mielke
Brennen Blotner	Thomas Guffin	Bill Motley
Aaron Brown	Sarah Gunhouse	John Newsome
Dorothy Candler	Andréa Hatcher	Matthew Neylon
Drema Canterbury	Diane Hault	Herman Ramsey
Beau Chatham	Aimee Henderson	Joey Ripley
Michelle Copeland	Jackie Hendrix	Riley Schreer
Austin Cripe	Kyle Hildebrand	Mark Snelling
Susan Davis	Greg Hucks	Paula Snelling
Jim Drinkard	Janet Johnson	Joel Terning
Terri Ducker	Julia Johnson	Pat Thomson
Elizabeth Edwards	Michelle Johnson	Alex Thompson
Kayla Wilson Emerson	Cameron Kapsar-King	Tiffany Uzoije
Ethan Godfrey	Trevor Kytola	Michael Vincent
Millie Gomel	Nicole Lewis	Caroline Warren
Walter Gomel	Brad Marsh	Rob Wellon
Katie Goodwin	Marcy Meredith	

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Nathan Schreer
Director of Music

Joshua McClure
Director of Worship & Organist

Tiffany Uzoije
Administrative Assistant

Alex Thompson
Music Associate

Ellen LeSaicherre
Children's Music Assistant

Liana Perlman
Children's Music Assistant



THE FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

FLUTE

Jim Zellers
Kelly Bryant

OBOE

Christina Gavin

CLARINET

Miranda Dohrman
Justin Stanley

HORN

Eric Hawkins
Dilon Bryan

TRUMPET

Yvonne Toll
Clayton Chastain

TROMBONE

Ed Nicholson
Hollie Lawing Pritchard

TIMPANI

McKinley Stinson

PERCUSSION

Trenton Hopkins

HARP

Nella Rigell

VIOLIN I

Ginny Fairchild
Sally Gardner Wilson
Tramaine Jones

VIOLIN II

Jessica Stinson
Alison James
Kevin Chaney

VIOLA

Catherine Price Allain
Robin Fay Massie

CELLO

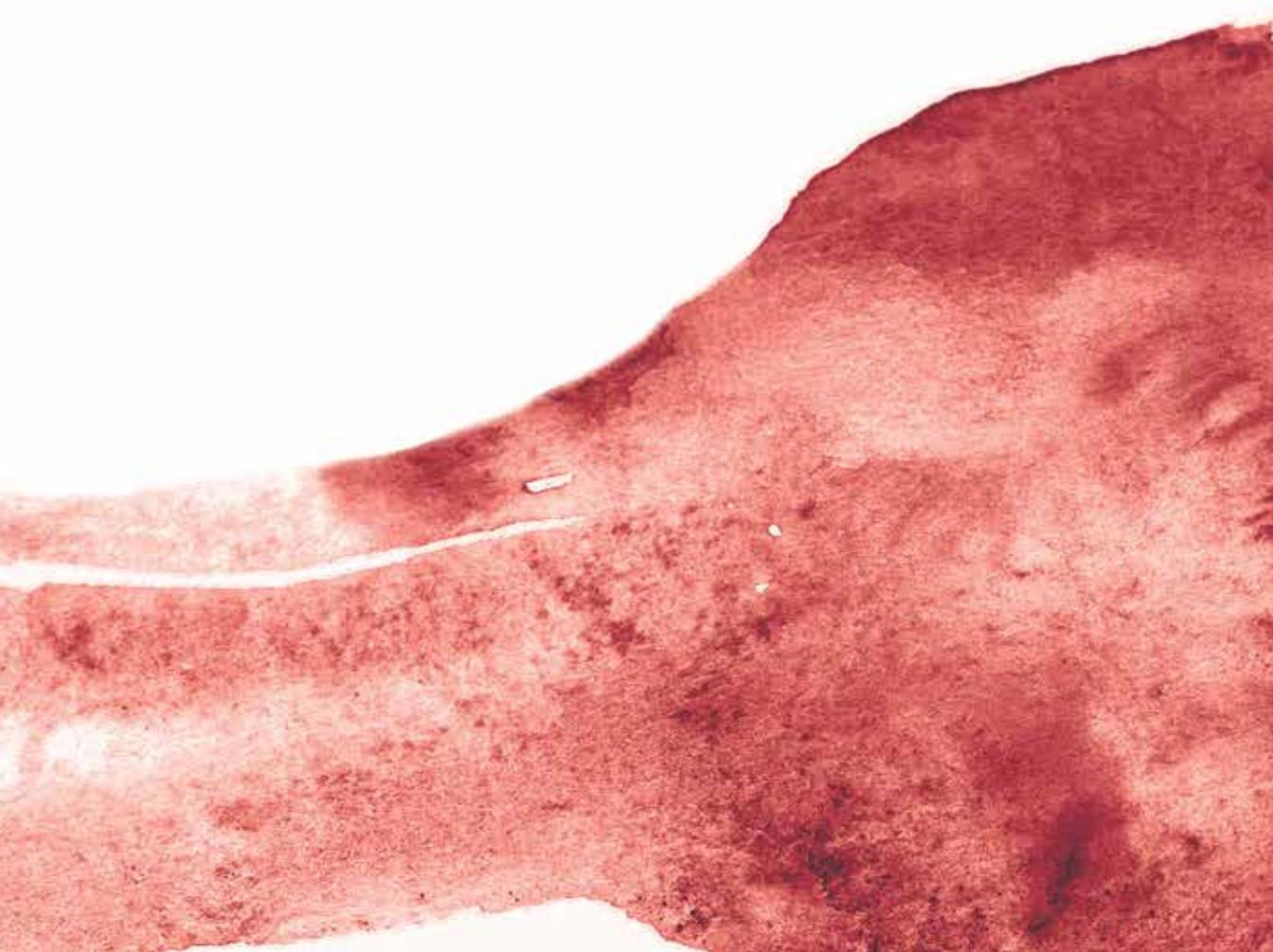
Yuliya Kim
Jared Cooper

BASS

Daniel Tancredi

PIANO & ORGAN

Joshua McClure



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Join us for Holy Week at Northside as we worship God on this holy day and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Palm Sunday, March 29

Traditional Service

8:30 & 11:15AM | Sanctuary

Contemporary Service

9:00AM | Watson Faith & Arts Center

Holy Week Communion, April 2

Communion Service

12:00 & 6:30PM | Watson Faith & Arts Center

Easter Sunday, April 5

Traditional Service

8:30, 9:45, 11:15AM | Sanctuary

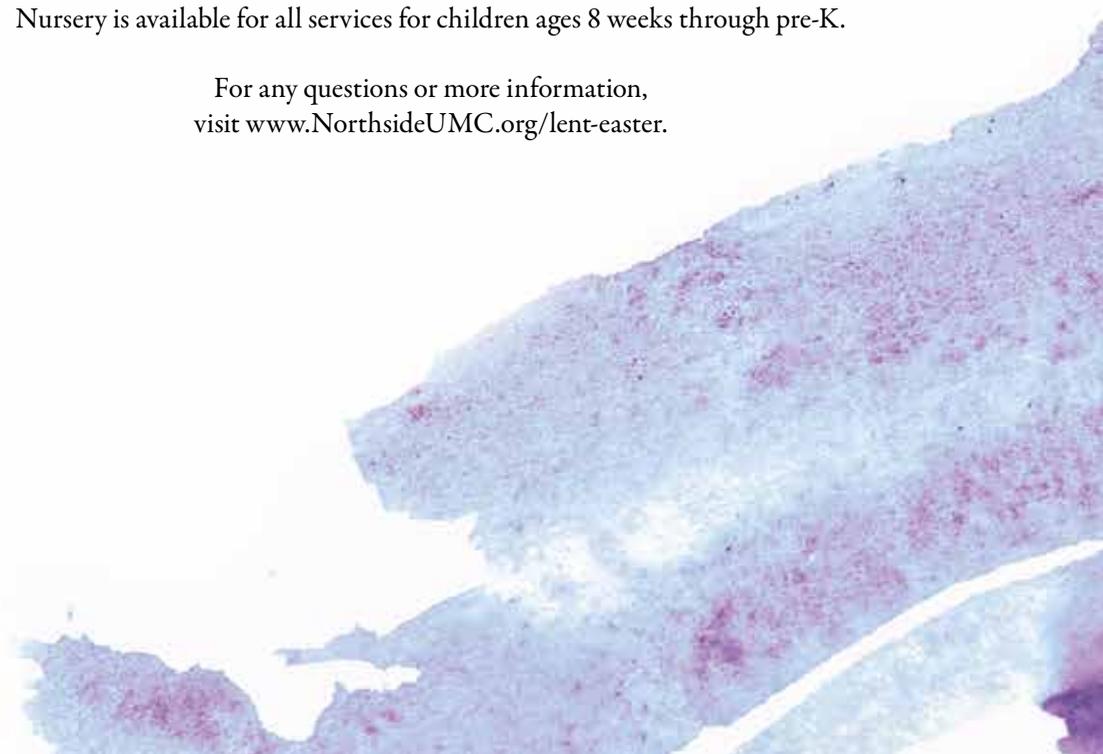
Contemporary Service

9:00 & 10:30AM | Watson Faith & Arts Center

Enjoy the fun and joy that animals bring to children and adults alike during Easter before and after services.

Nursery is available for all services for children ages 8 weeks through pre-K.

For any questions or more information,
visit www.NorthsideUMC.org/lent-easter.



CLERGY

Dr. Bill Burch, *Senior Pastor* • Rev. Catherine Boothe Olson, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Angela House, *Associate Pastor*

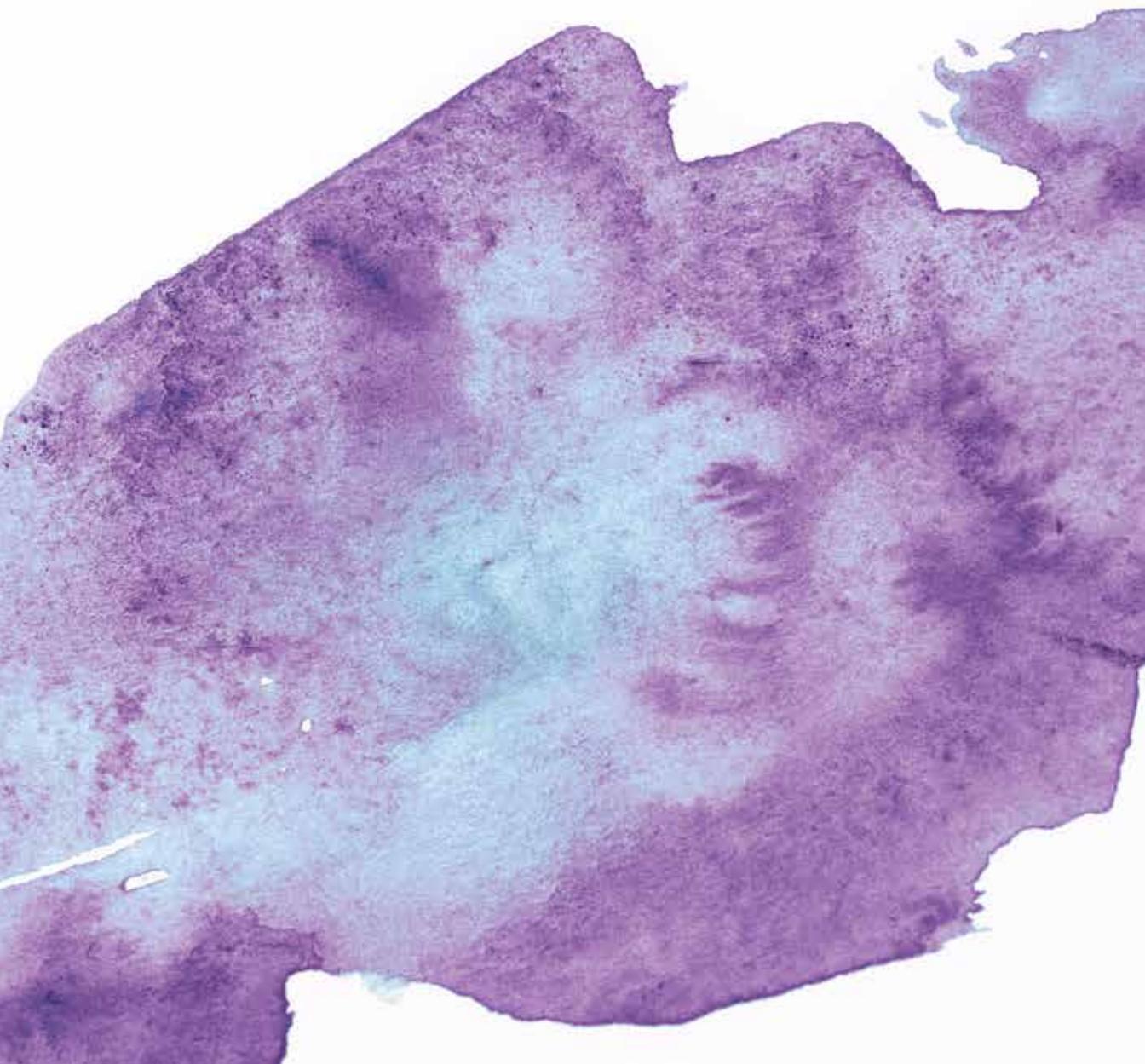
AFFILIATED CLERGY

Dr. G. Gil Watson, *Pastor Emeritus* • Dr. Ann Brightwell McCord, *Retired*
Rev. Nancy Yarnell, *Retired* • Rev. Douglas Herlong • Rev. Jennifer Hansen

TRADITIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY

Joshua McClure, *Director of Worship & Organist* • Nathan Schreer, *Director of Music*
Ryan McDougall, *Production Director*

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A UNITED METHODIST
CONGREGATION

