

Midway Hills  
Christian Church



March 17, 2024  
11 A.M. Worship Service

**Gathering Meditation**

"Fundamental to all was his [Jesus's] deep confidence in God. This is the heart of what he gives to the disinherited. Here is no superficial optimism, but a vast faith that reaches through all dimensions of human life, giving dignity, worth, and purpose even to the least significant. In Jesus, all men may see the illumined finger of God guiding them in the way that they should go, so that high above the clash of arms in the conflict for status, for place, for privilege, for rights, he can hear speaking distinctly and clearly to his own spirit the still small voice of God."

— Howard Thurman, *The Mood of Christmas*

# Order of Worship

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

### Chiming the Hour

Let us take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

### Welcome

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

## The Community Gathers

### Prelude

*A Celtic Set for Lent*

arr. Thomas Keesecker

### \*Call to Worship

Carol Leslie Hargis-Nation

One: In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

**Many: What have we to fear?**

One: In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

**Many: Of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

**Many: Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us. Amen.**

### \*Hymn 676

*O God of Love, O Power of Peace*

CANONBURY

### Dismissal for Children's Church

Children ages five through fifth grade may leave with the adult leaders for Children's Worship. They are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

## The Community Responds

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

### The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Prayer Hymn 305

*Lord Listen to  
Your Children Praying*

CHILDREN PRAYING

### Call to Giving

Mia Martin

## The Community Proclaims God's Word

### Scripture Reading

Mark 4:35-41

Carol Leslie Hargis-Nation

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat,

just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (NRSVUE)

Ese día al anochecer dijo a sus discípulos: —Crucemos al otro lado. Dejaron a la multitud y se lo llevaron en la barca donde estaba. También lo acompañaban otras barcas. Se desató entonces una fuerte tormenta y las olas azotaban tanto la barca que ya comenzaba a inundarse. Mientras tanto, Jesús estaba en la popa, durmiendo sobre un cabezal, así que los discípulos lo despertaron. —¡Maestro! —gritaron—, ¿no te importa que nos ahoguemos? Él se levantó, reprendió al viento y ordenó al mar: —¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate! El viento se calmó y todo quedó completamente tranquilo. —¿Por qué tienen tanto miedo? —dijo a sus discípulos—. ¿Todavía no tienen fe? Ellos estaban espantados y se decían unos a otros: —¿Quién es este que hasta el viento y el mar le obedecen? (NVI)

### **Anthem**

*What Shall I Offer My God?*

Lloyd Larson

### **Sermon**

"Deep is the Hunger  
for Peace"

Rev. Virzola Jo-Nan Law

### **Moment of Silence**

Deep the hunger in the human heart, deep the thirsting in the soul.  
Deep the longing for a fellowship, here to feast and be made whole.

Deep the well-spring of amazing grace, here where health and hope can grow.  
Deep the healing for the hungry heart, deep the love we seek to know,  
love that will not let us go.

## **The Community Is Empowered at the Table**

### **Invitation to the Table**

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

### **Institution of the Table**

### **Communion Prayer**

Carol John

### **Communion Hymn 409**

*I Hunger and I Thirst*

IBSTONE

### **Communion**

Please hold the "bread" until prompted by the minister. We will eat in unison.  
Please hold the "cup" until prompted by the minister. We will drink in unison

### **Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes

# The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

**\*Hymn 673**

*Down by the Riverside*

STUDY WAR NO MORE

**\*Benediction**

Rev. Virzola Jo-Nan Law

**\*Benediction Hymn 448**

*May the Blessing of God*

BLESSING SONG

**Postlude**

*Light Dawn on  
a Weary World*

arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold

\*Please rise in either body or spirit.

Prelude: *A Celtic Set for Lent*, arr. Thomas Keesecker. ©2018 Birnamwood Publications.

Anthem: *What Shall I Offer My God*, by Lloyd Larson. ©2015 Lorenz Co.

*Deep the Hunger*, words and music by Ken Medema. ©2024 Ken Medema Music.

Postlude: *Light Dawn on a Weary World*, arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold. ©2014 GIA Publications.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

You are invited to meet with the ministers after the service in the gathering area, or contact the church office any time.

## CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

"Reaffirming our own faith in Jesus Christ, we welcome you into this expression of God's universal church. We meet you with love, we commit ourselves to your care, and we celebrate your presence in our congregation. Through the power of God's spirit, let us together do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, who strengthens us to serve one another."

## VISION STATEMENT

Midway Hills Christian Church seeks to be inclusive, do justice and embrace diversity. We are an **Open and Affirming** congregation, unified in our love for Jesus Christ and his teachings. We understand biblical shalom as a call to act for justice and to respect God's creation. We cherish the gift of life and support each other in our spiritual journey. Grounded in worship, Bible study, and prayer, we seek to be instruments of God's healing through efforts to eliminate poverty, injustice, hunger, and social issues that afflict our community locally and globally. We seek to transform our world as we build bridges across all barriers that divide God's people.

## MIDWAY HILLS STAFF

Rev. Laurie Anderson  
Senior Minister

Rev. Deborah Morgan-Stokes  
Minister of Church Life

Kathy Corporon  
Coordinator of  
Children's Programs

Jeff Crouse  
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons  
Administrative Assistant

TECH CREW  
DC Ciccone, John Leslie  
James Lackey

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE  
Emily Adams  
Kate Lynch

MARCH ELDERS  
Carol John  
Lynne Stokes  
*Frank Martin, Elders Chair*

MARCH DEACONS  
Hannah Ciccone, Mark Holmgren  
Christy Horn  
*John Nation, Deacons Chair*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter for details and more.)

### **We welcome guest preacher Rev. Virzola Jo-Nan Law to MHCC today.**

Rev. Law currently serves as Senior Pastor at Northway Christian Church in Dallas, TX. Prior to Northway she was Senior Pastor at the historic Lindenwood Christian Church. She was and is the first elected female and African American to serve in this capacity at both congregations. Prior to Lindenwood, Rev. Law served in various pastoral assignments at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in a span of twelve years. She was senior pastor at Woodland Christian Church in Houston, Texas. She received a Master of Divinity Degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. She also worked on her master's degree while attending Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. During her seminary years Rev. Law served as Associate Pastor at First Christian Church in Carrollton, Texas. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She enjoys a good book, traveling, lakes, oceans, and spending time with her friends and families. Rev. Law is passionate about building bridges in divided communities (doing the root work of co-creating anti-racist churches), radical hospitality around food and fun, and preaching the love of God made known in Jesus Christ that transforms the world.

### **Please stay for the congregational meeting after worship today.**

Purpose: to approve the terms of our Disciples Church Extension Fund loan.

**Children's Church WILL meet March 17 and the rest of the month.**

**Wednesday and Sunday Lenten Bible Study offered through March 27.**

In Adult Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) and both morning (10:30 a.m.) and evening (7:00 p.m.) Wednesday Bible Studies we are using the book: "What Makes You Come Alive - A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman," by Lerita Coleman Brown.

**All ages are invited to help make protest posters for Palm Sunday.**

Join us March 23, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in community hall. Contact Rev. Laurie or Miss Kathy for details.

**RSVP for Maundy Thursday meal, March 28 at 6:00 p.m.**

Our worship will be in community much as Jesus was with his disciples. We will eat supper and together re-enliven communion and aspire to the table of community as Jesus did. A \$15 donation is suggested.

**Plan now to attend the Good Friday Combined Choir and Worship service.**

On March 29 at 7:00 p.m. we will worship together with the congregations of Northway Christian Church and Royal Lane Baptist Church, at 6707 Royal Lane, Dallas.

**Easter Sunday, March 31, at Midway Hills Christian Church:**

Son-Rise Service, 9:00 a.m. at the pavilion.

Breakfast served, 9:30–10:30 a.m. in community hall.

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m.

Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

**Interpretación en español proporcionada por el Colectivo Comal.**

Si desea usar la interpretación simultánea, consulte al equipo de la mesa de sonido. O use este enlace para unirse al grupo de Whatsapp para escuchar. Por favor, silénciate.  
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JRxSth4JgjX0shCBm3gGo2>

**Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings.**

March 20 – Staff Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

March 21 – Mission & Outreach Committee, 7:00 p.m. (conference room)

March 28 – Elders Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Open to any MHCC member who would like to join. Our emphasis is prayers for MHCC, local, state, national and global issues.

April 1 – Elders Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April 3 – Staff Meeting, 12:00 p.m.

Scan this QR code  
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Midway Hills  
Christian Church:



# JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

## **Please pray for these in our church family:**

Emily Adams, Tinker Miller, Bryen Lackey

## **Please pray for our extended church family concerns:**

Christy Horn's mother, Nancy Glover; Christy Horn's mother-in-law; Christy Horn's father-in-law, David Horn; Christy Horn's family friend, Lydia Bailey; Jeryl Crawford's family member Tony Olexa; David Hammons' wife, Joan; asylum guests past and present

## **Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:**

Cathy Parker	Jeryl Crawford	Jayne & Chris Sparrer
Peggy Dowdey	Christy, Fletcher and Cameron Horn	
Frank & Millie Martin		

## **Sympathy:**



## **Let's celebrate with joy:**

- The work of Asension House in El Paso
- Deacons and Elders serving at MHCC
- Hosting asylum seekers at MHCC
- Our guests/visitors in worship

## **Please pray for our city and state:**

- Texas panhandle fires
- School redistricting in Texas
- Steps that erode our civil rights and safety
- Food scarcity
- Metro school boundaries being changed

## **Please pray for our nation and world:**

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine.
- Peace for Israel and Palestine – cease fire
- All who are suffering from climate disasters worldwide.
- End to gun violence, and impacted by it.
- Anti LGBTQ legislation
- All who struggle with mental health.

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2024

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 17**

9:30 a.m.	Choir practice	11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	11:00 a.m.	Children's Church
12:00 p.m.	Congregational Meeting		

## **Tuesday**

**March 19**

9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior grounds  
7:30 p.m. Primary Purpose Group & PPG-AAFG, community hall, room 1

## **Wednesday**

**March 20**

7:30 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:30) community hall, kitchen  
10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study (until 11:30) conference room  
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting, conference room  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Evening Bible Study

## **Thursday**

**March 21**

11:30 a.m. Men's Lunch Group, Garden Tea Room, 5330 Forest Lane, Dallas  
7:00 p.m. Mission & Outreach Committee, conference room  
7:30 p.m. Primary Purpose Group & PPG-AAFG, community hall, room 1

## **Saturday**

**March 23**

8:30 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 1:00) courtyard; community hall if rain  
10:30 a.m. Protest Poster Making for Palm Sunday (until 11:30) community hall

## **Palm Sunday**

**March 24**

9:30 a.m.	Choir practice	11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	11:00 a.m.	Children's Church

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