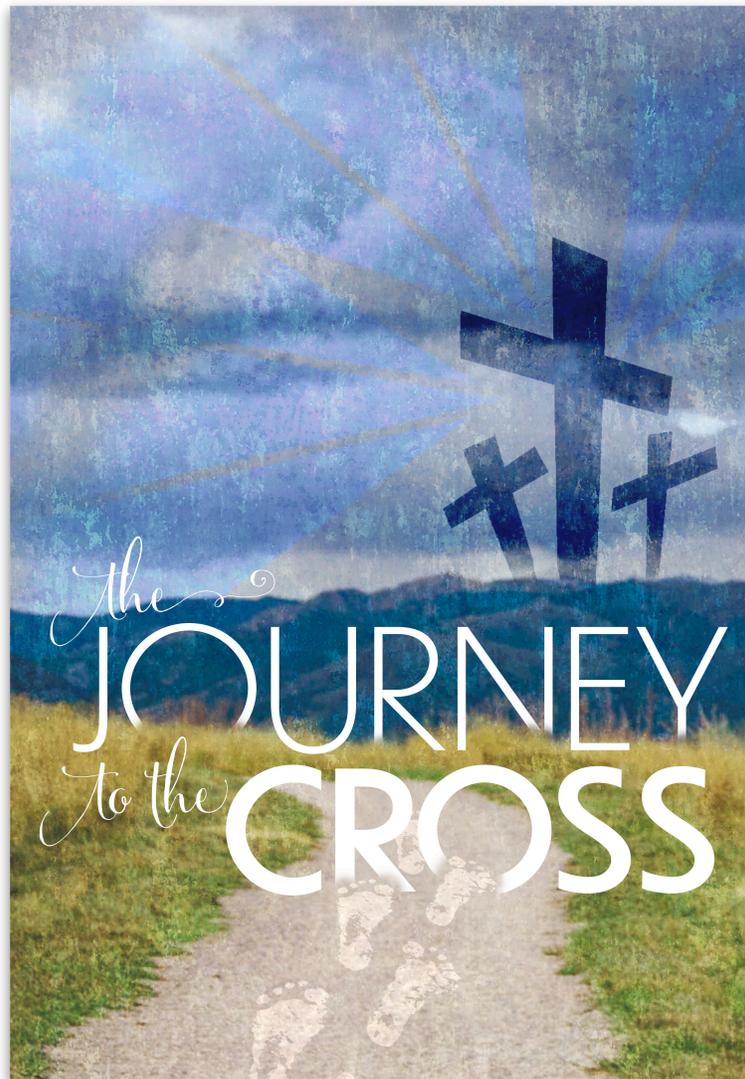




**MIDWAY HILLS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.



March 8, 2026
11 A.M. Worship Service

Gathering Meditation

"We honor who we are. We reject that which seeks to divide and diminish us."

- Kat Armas

Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

Chiming the Hour

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

Welcome

James Lackey

The Community Gathers

Prelude

You Are My All in All

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Call to Worship Hymn 282 *Light of Light Eternal*

Gary Springer

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.

Confession and Kyrie

Prayer of Confession

Rev. John O'Neal

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not always lived your way of love.

We have heard the voices of those pushed to the margins.

We have watched, feeling powerless against systems that harm, exclude, or diminish your children.

We long for reconciliation in those things that we have done and left undone.

Forgive us. Reconcile us to one another and to you.

Strengthen us to resist injustice,

to honor the beauty of every person,

and to walk in the freedom of your power and grace. Amen.

Kyrie Refrain

LET US BREAK BREAD

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have Mercy on Me.**

Assurance

Rev. John O'Neal

Beloved of God,

You are forgiven, empowered, renewed, and called again into the work of healing and hope.

May the Spirit strengthen you to live with courage, compassion, and joy.

Thanks be to God.

Offering Moment

Rev. Dr. Roger Wedell

The Community Proclaims God's Word

Special Music

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

Scripture Reading

Micah 7:1-8

Gary Springer

Woe is me! For I have become like one who, after the summer fruit has been gathered, after the vintage has been gleaned, finds no cluster to eat; there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger. The faithful have disappeared from the land, and there is no one left who is upright; they all lie in wait for blood, and they hunt each other with nets. Their hands are skilled to do evil; the official and the judge ask for a bribe, and the powerful dictate what they desire; thus they pervert justice. The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand. Put no trust in a friend; have no confidence in a loved one; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your embrace, for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; your enemies are members of your own household. But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, my enemies; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. (NRSVUE)

¡Pobre de mí! Soy como el que recoge frutos de verano y busca lo que sobre en la viña; no hay ningún racimo para comer, ningún higo nuevo que tanto deseo. La gente piadosa ha sido eliminada del país, no queda persona recta. Todos tratan de matar a alguien; unos a otros se tienden redes. Ambas manos son hábiles para hacer el mal; gobernadores y jueces exigen soborno. Los poderosos imponen lo que quieren; todos traman en conjunto. El mejor de ellos es más enmarañado que una zarza; el más recto, más torcido que un espino. Pero ya viene el día de su confusión; ¡ya se acerca el día de tu castigo anunciado por tus centinelas! No creas en tu prójimo ni confíes en tus amigos; cuídate de lo que hablas con la que duerme en tus brazos. El hijo ultraja al padre, la hija se rebela contra la madre, la nuera contra la suegra y los enemigos de cada cual están en su propia familia. Pero yo he puesto mi esperanza en el Señor; yo espero en el Dios de mi salvación. ¡Mi Dios me escuchará! Enemiga mía, no te alegres de mi mal. Aunque haya caído me levantaré. Aunque vivo en tinieblas el Señor es mi luz. (NVI)

Sermon

"But as for Me"

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Responsive Hymn 492

Many Are the Lightbeams

MANY ARE THE LIGHTBEAMS

Prayers of the People

Rev. John O'Neal

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.

The Community Is Empowered at the Table

Reconciliation and Passing of the Peace

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Invitation to the Table

Mark Holmgren

This table is open to all — without exception.
Here Christ meets us in shared bread and cup,
uniting us across every boundary we create.
Come, for all is ready.

Great Thanksgiving

Mark Holmgren

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer over the Elements

Mark Holmgren

Institution of the Table

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Those who are able are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the elements and partake by intinction. Those serving will tear a piece of bread and dip it in the cup. You may return to your seat via the side aisles. The Table of the Lord is open to all. Christ invites us into communion.

Communion Hymn 414

Eat This Bread

BERTHIER

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Gracious God,

You have fed us with love and strengthened us for the journey.

Send us out to do justice, embrace diversity,

and embody your reconciling peace in the world. Amen.

The Community is Sent to Restore God's World

***Closing Hymn 442**

We Are Walking

SIYAHAMBA

***Blessing**

Rev. Gerald Emanuel

Postlude

*Light Dawns
on a Weary World*

arr. Roberta Rowland-Raybold

*Please rise in either body or spirit.

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."

BIENVENIDA CONGREGACIONAL

"Reafirmando nuestra propia fe en Jesucristo, les damos la bienvenida a esta expresión de la iglesia universal de Dios. Los recibimos con amor, nos comprometemos a su cuidado y celebramos su presencia en nuestra congregación. Mediante el poder del espíritu de Dios, hagamos juntos justicia, amemos la misericordia y caminemos humildemente con Dios, quien nos fortalece para servirnos unos a otros."

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 social issues that affect 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

Jeff Crouse
Director of Music Ministries

David Hammons
Administrative Assistant

Douglass Anne Cartwright
Bookkeeper

TECH CREW
James Lackey
John Leslie

GRAPHICS, WEBSITE
Kate Lynch

MARCH DEACON
Adriana Escalante

MARCH 8 ELDER
Mark Holmgren

Scan this QR code to make a financial contribution to Midway Hills Christian Church:



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

(See The Echo newsletter and Friday Flash for details and more.)

We welcome Rev. Gerald Emanuel as our guest preacher this morning.

Give to the 2026 Week of Compassion offering.

Any time is the right time to give. Please scan the QR code below.

Order flowers for Easter Sunday.

See the order form insert in this bulletin or pick up a form in the gathering area.

Christian Adult Fellowship (CAF) Lunch is March 18.

Congregational address update requested.

Please send us your current address and phone number for improved communications.

Mark your calendar:

Cabinet Meeting - March 12, 7:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - March 19, 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - March 22, 12:15 p.m. (updated)

Elders Meeting - March 29, 12:15 p.m.

All Church Prayer - Thursdays on Zoom, 8:30 a.m.

Prayer Alcove - Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adult Book Discussion - Sundays, 10:00 a.m., room 1

Prelude: *You Are My All in All*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner. ©2005 Hope Publishing Co.

Special Music: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, by Kathleen Thomerson. ©1966 Celebration Publications.

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

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JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Please pray for these in our church family:

Frank Martin, Dan Gaylord, Lydia Bare, John Nation, Jim Gilmore, Gay Gilmore, Judy Mank, John Nation, James Lackey, Bryen Lackey, Jose Columbo

Please pray for our extended church family concerns:

Dan Gaylord's parents, Linda and Larrie Gaylord; Mary Ludwick's nephew, David Harris; online viewer Kathy Nida's friend Diane; Laura Mitchell's sister, Mercedes Alcazar; Mary Ludwick's sister, Alice Collins; Christy Horn's mother-in-law, Barbara Horn; David Hammons' wife, Joan

Please pray for those with ongoing concerns:

Elaine Manworren Nina Boothe
Frank & Millie Martin Jeryl Crawford
Lynne Stokes
Christy Horn and children Betsy, Fletcher, Cameron

Sympathy:

- ❖ Madeline Cotton and family, on the death of her brother Roger Allen Cotton, January 19.
- ❖ Robin Copeland and family on the passing of her mother, Dorothy "Dottie" Keller, on January 4 in Buffalo, New York.
- ❖ Christy Horn's friend Lorana Clark and her family upon the death of her son on New Year's Day.

Let's celebrate with joy:

- Our guests/visitors in worship in sanctuary and online

Please pray for our city and state:

- Muslim community
- Religious freedom legislation
- Legislative sessions
- Texas faith-based non-profits serving immigrants and refugees

Please pray for our nation and world:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine and Venezuela
- Starvation in Gaza and solidarity with Palestinian people
- Anti trans legislation around the nation
- Disappearance and deportation of immigrant siblings
- Health care and women's reproductive rights
- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine
- All who are suffering from climate disasters nationally and worldwide.
- All who need mental health services.
- End gun violence.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 8, 2026

Sunday

March 8

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

Tuesday

March 10

- 9:00 a.m. Master Gardeners (until 4:00) exterior gardens
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Thursday

March 12

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
- 7:00 p.m. Cabinet Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

Sunday

March 15

- 9:30 a.m. Choir practice
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Book Discussion, room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Church
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

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.

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www.midwayhills.org · 214-352-4841

