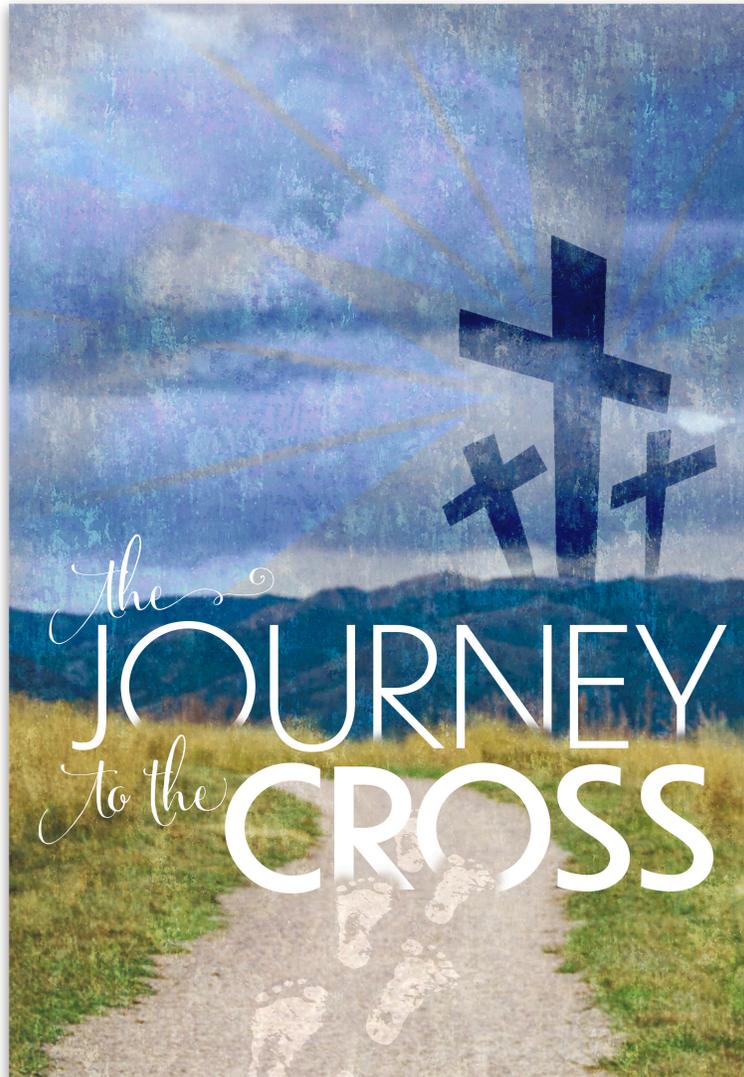




**MIDWAY HILLS  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
be inclusive. do justice. honor diversity.



**March 22, 2026**  
**11 A.M. Worship Service**

**Gathering Meditation**

"Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold..."

- Girl Scouts

# 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

Val Cunningham

## The Community Gathers

### Prelude

*Holy Spirit Medley*

arr. Don Wyrzten

### \*Call to Worship

John Nation

One: Out of the depths we cry to you, O God,  
And you hear our voice.

**Many: You breathe life into weary bones  
And call us into hope again.**

One: Christ summons us from places of despair  
Into the light of new creation.

**Many: Let us worship God.**

### \*Opening Hymn 5

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

### 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**

**Scripture Reading**

Romans 8:6-11

John Nation

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (NRSVUE)

La mente gobernada por la carne es muerte, mientras que la mente que proviene del Espíritu es vida y paz. La mente gobernada por la carne es enemiga de Dios, pues no se somete a la Ley de Dios ni es capaz de hacerlo. Los que viven según la carne no pueden agradar a Dios. Sin embargo, ustedes no viven según la carne, sino según el Espíritu, si es que el Espíritu de Dios vive en ustedes. Y si alguno no tiene el Espíritu de Cristo, no es de Cristo. Pero si Cristo está en ustedes, el cuerpo está muerto a causa del pecado, pero el Espíritu que está en ustedes es vida a causa de la justicia. Y si el Espíritu de aquel que levantó a Jesús de entre los muertos vive en ustedes, el mismo que levantó a Cristo de entre los muertos también dará vida a sus cuerpos mortales por medio de su Espíritu, que vive en ustedes. (NVI)

**Special Music**

*God's Peace*

arr. C. J. Adams

**Sermon**

"Where The Spirit Breathes"

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

**Responsive Hymn 254**

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM

**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. Betsy Stirbens

## **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. Betsy Stirbens

## **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. Betsy Stirbens

**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 537**

*My Hope Is Built*

THE SOLID ROCK

### **\*Blessing**

Rev. Betsy Stirbens

### **Postlude**

*A Gaelic Blessing*

arr. John Rutter

\*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 22 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. Betsy Stirbens as our guest preacher this morning.**  
She is Palliative Care Staff Chaplin at Clements University Hospital.

**Board meets today in community hall after worship.**  
All MHCC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Good Friday Service is April 3 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Congregational Meeting set for April 12, following morning worship.**

## **Candy Needed for Easter Egg Hunt!**

This year's hunt will be for children and guests, ages 0-12. It will be Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:00, until the eggs have all been found. Please donate candy in order to stuff the eggs. Larger plastic eggs would also be nice. Place items in the red basket in the hallway. Any questions, email Megan Mercer.

## **All Church Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, April 5.**

Bring casseroles of your choice. The church will provide juice, pastries and coffee.

## **RSVP for Tables of Eight to Megan Mercer.**

Continue the conversation started at a recent Town Halls, in a relaxed atmosphere.

March 28 at 7:00 p.m. - Dinner at Clayton and Val Cunningham's.

April 18 at 5:30 p.m. - Dinner hosted by Mia Martin and Lynne Stokes at the church.

## **First Tuesday Ladies Who Lunch will meet April 7 at 11:30 a.m.**

Maple Leaf Diner, south side of shopping center at LBJ and Preston Road. Let Carol Hargis-Nation know if you plan to attend.

## **Mark your calendar:**

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

Mission & Outreach - March 24, 7:00 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: *Holy Spirit Medley*, arr. Don Wyrzten. ©1991 Singspiration.

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# JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

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

Don Manworren, Dan Gaylord, Lydia Bare, Bryen Lackey, Nina Boothe

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

Jackie Wintle, 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	Jim Gilmore	Jose Columbo
Frank & Millie Martin	Jeryl Crawford	Gay Gilmore	
Lynne Stokes	Judy Mank	James Lackey	

Christy Horn and children Betsy, Fletcher, Cameron  
Robin Copeland and family on the passing of her mother, Dorothy "Dottie" Keller  
Madeline Cotton and family on the death of her brother Roger Allen Cotton

## **Sympathy:**



## **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 in Ukraine, Palestine, Venezuela, Iran and all places where tyranny threatens human flourishing and the name God is used in vain to justify violence
- 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 22, 2026

## **Sunday**

**March 22**

- 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
- 12:15 p.m. Board Meeting, community hall

## **Tuesday**

**March 24**

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

## **Wednesday**

**March 25**

- 6:00 p.m. Oh My Nosh! (until 9:00) kitchen

## **Thursday**

**March 26**

- 8:30 a.m. All Church Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Oh My Nosh! (until 4:00) kitchen
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Alcove
- 7:30 p.m. AA-PPG & Al-Anon, community hall & classroom 1

## **Friday**

**March 27**

- 7:00 a.m. Good Shepherd Episcopal School (until 12:30) parking lot

## **Saturday**

**March 28**

- 7:00 p.m. Table of Eight Dinner & Conversation, at the Cunningham's home

## **Palm Sunday**

**March 29**

- 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

