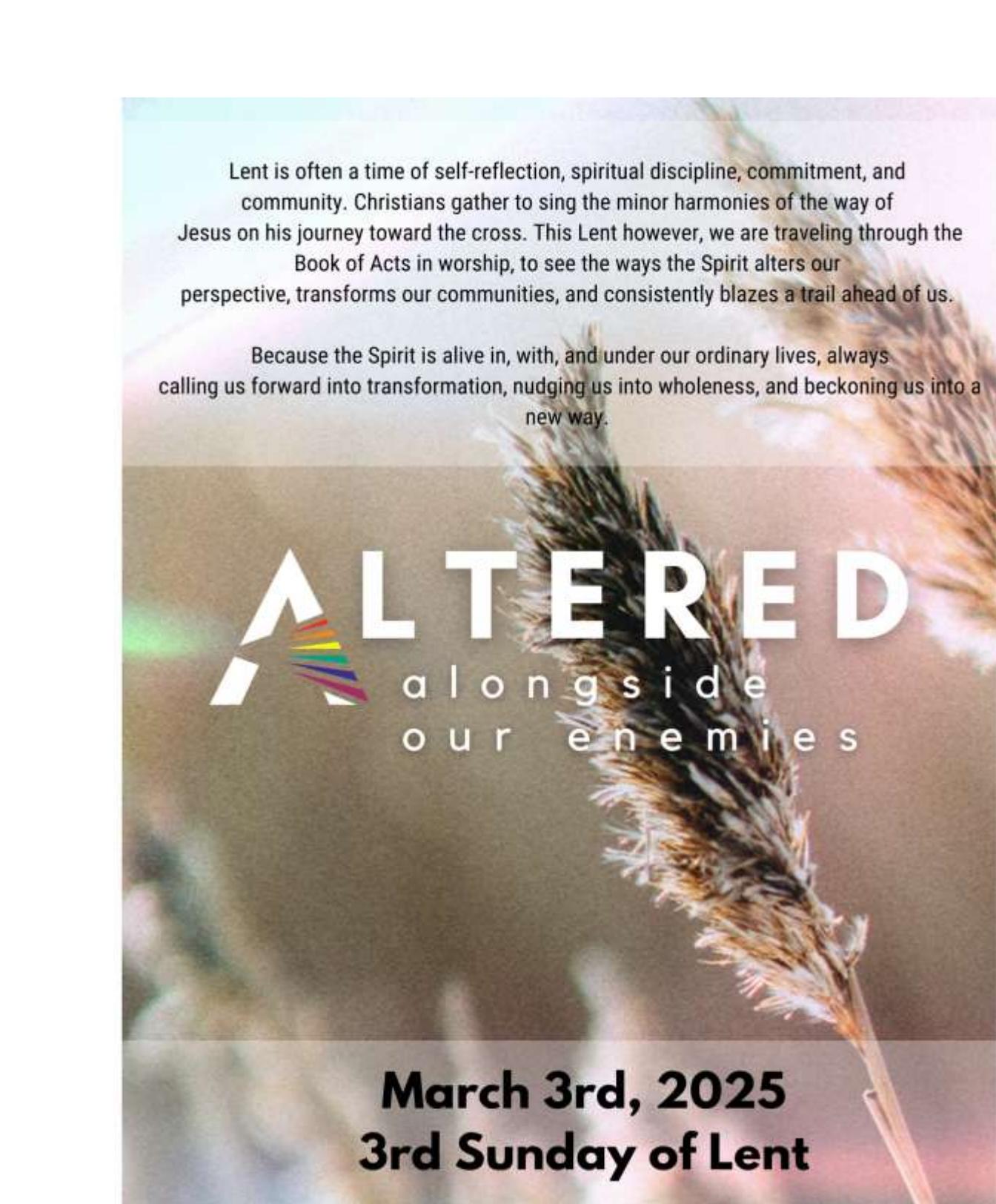


Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. Christians gather to sing the minor harmonies of the way of Jesus on his journey toward the cross. This Lent however, we are traveling through the Book of Acts in worship, to see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us.

Because the Spirit is alive in, with, and under our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us into a new way.



**ALTERED**  
alongside  
our enemies

**March 3rd, 2025**  
**3rd Sunday of Lent**

**PRELUDE MUSIC**  
**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**INVITATION TO REST:**

**\*OPENING SENTENCES: (Psalm 19 )**

God's glory is on tour in the skies,  
God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.  
Madame Day holds classes every morning,  
Professor Night lectures each evening.

And though we cannot hear their words,  
God's word gives hearing to the deaf  
Sight to the blind and  
freedom for all trapped in darkness.

So let us worship the God who comes to give  
all we cannot find ourselves.

**\*GATHERING HYMN #215 Wonderous Love (v. 1, 2)**

**KYRIE** *(Please join us in the "Kyrie". an ancient song mirroring the words people cried out to Jesus with for healing in the Gospels. In Greek they mean, "Lord, have mercy. Christ Have Mercy". The church has sung these words for thousands of years as a prayer and to prepare our hearts for confession.)*<sup>[SEP]</sup>

**Lead:** Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

**Lead:** Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)

**Lead:** Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy)

**All: Kyrie Elasion**

**All: Christe Elasion**

**All: Kyrie Elasion**

**CONFESSION of Need (Responsive)**

O Holy One, we confess that we are quick to diagnose the flaws of our neighbors and eager to decide how they should changes to become easier to love.

And we confess that when we do that, we reduce others to problems in need of a solution. But we also know that you do not treat us like that.

You heal us because you desire wholeness and joy.

The persistent love of your Son renews and reforms us alongside our enemies,

And therefor, God of action and intention,

**We confess that we need you**

Help us understand our influence on the world.  
That the sword and the ploughshare are not so different---  
sharp blades that can hurt or harvest,  
and a single word can alienate or welcome.

**Only your love can heal and make whole.**

**God of justice and mercy,**

help us understand our relationships in new ways.  
Where friend and the foe are not so different---  
both can surprise us with a change of heart,  
and we need to do the same.

**Only your love can heal and make whole.**

**God of patience and grace,**

help us know how limited our view perspective is.  
Success and failure are not so different---  
we can neither win nor lose your love,  
and we can neither give nor take salvation.

**Only your love can heal and make whole.**

God we confess we need your grace so we can,

**lay down our demands for change, that we might be changed;**  
**lay down our judgment, that we might be forgiven;**  
**lay down our fear of loss, that we might experience Christ's victory over**  
**death.**

In the name of he who overcame the cross and the grave for us, we pray,  
**Amen.**

**Lead:** Kyrie Eleison (Lord have mercy)

**Lead:** Christe Eleison (Christ have mercy)

**Lead:** Kyrie Eleison (Lord Have Mercy)

**All: Kyrie Eleison**

**All: Christe Eleison**

**All: Kyrie Eleison**

*SILENCE for confession and resting In God's grace.*

**DECLARATION OF GRACE (responsive)**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**\*RESPONSE HYMN** #701 Sanctuary (x2)

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### \*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

**Holy Spirit, help us hear your voice beyond our inability to hear and understand your word beyond any speaker's ability to explain. Through your word, speak to our hearts even if our heads are not ready to listen.**

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** .....Acts 9:  
1-22

*Leader: The word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God!***

**\*SERMON**..... Pr. Gregory  
Isaacson

## SILENCE FOR CONTEMPLATION

**\*CONTEMPLATION HYMN:** #515 I Come With Joy  
(v.1,2,3)

## PRAYERS & GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your Mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (forgive us our "sins")

Communion:

- Invitation

- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Words of Institution



- Communion of the People
- Prayer

**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE (Responsive)**

Beloved children of God receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the blessing of the Lord forever.

**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**#526**

**Let us Talents and Tongues Employ**

**\*DISMISSAL (Responsive)**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

# A Warm Welcome to our Guests and Visitors!

*Our church has a wonderful array of ministries that seek to spread the gospel into the world. If you are interested in finding out more about the church community or are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at:*

**Pastor – Rev. Michael Ozaki**

**Cell: 951.532.5105**

*PastorOzaki@gmail.com*

**Office Administrator – Anne Kopecky Office: 218-281-4853**

**E-mail: office@crookstonfirstpres.org**

**Check out our Website: www.crookstonfirstpres.org**

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## Sunday- March 3<sup>rd</sup> , 2024

**10:45 am**

**Worship**

**11:45 am**

**Coffee Fellowship**

**Ushers & Greeters.....Mario and Jill Schisano**

**Organist..... George French**

**Music Director.....Sandy Perkins**

**Reader..... Marsha Odom**

**Communion Servers & Prep.....Gordy and Monica Terpstra**

## Wednesday –March 6<sup>th</sup> , 2024

**5:30pm Lenten Food & Reflections**

## Thursday March 7t, 2024

**1:00pm- Book Study “Pause”**

## Next Sunday- March 10th , 2024

**10:45 am**

**Worship**

**11:45 am**

**Congregational Vision Retreat Report**

**Ushers & Greeters.....Connor & Laura Thoreson**

**Organist**..... Caleb Mendez  
**Music Director**.....Sandy Perkins  
**Reader**..... Lynne Mullins

## Special Announcements!

### Join Our New Collaborative lay Visitation Team

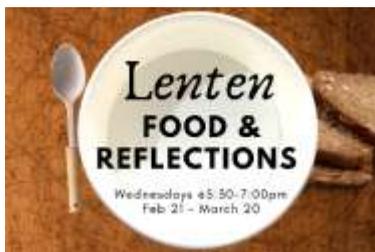
With trainings on March: 20th @7:15pm & 24th @10:15am (At TLC) volunteers will be ready to offer companionship to members at both FPC & TLC in hospital, homebound and other times that keep them from coming to us. This is one way we can answer Jesus' call to love each other and stay connected.



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### Lenten Soup & Reflections

*Wednesdays @ 5:30-7:00, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>*



We are looking forward to our third Lenten gathering with food and reflections to chew on together.

#### **BUT FIRST!**

We have one spot left for someone to provide a pot of comfort

food for us to share together. If that's you please fill out the up sheet outside the sanctuary or contact the office to let us know

if you plan to help out in this way.

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