

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Dr. James Taneti back to our pulpit today!

March Guest Preachers & Announcers:

April 2: "Palm Sunday" & Communion; Rev. Dr. James Taneti; S. Hunter, Announcer
April 9: "Easter ": Rev. Marvin Daniel; Announcer, R. Scott, Announcer
April 16: Rev. Charles Philips; also Session Moderator; L. Johnson, Announcer
April 23 Rev. Marvin Daniel; D. Hunter, Announcer
April 30: Rev. Renita Page; R. Scott, Announcer

"One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering: We will be receiving the "One Great Hour of Sharing Offering" during the Easter worship service on April 9. A brochure is enclosed that explains how the monies are distributed. An offering envelope will be provided for your use in the Easter worship service bulletin.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 6. Gregory's congregation has been invited to attend Maundy Thursday service at Rosewood Presbyterian Church (5500 Oaklawn Boulevard, Prince George, VA). Rev. Charles Philips will lead the worship service. Service begins at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 6.

Scholarship application deadline for Fall Semester: May 31. Deadline for submitting applications for the Christine Belsches Memorial Scholarship Fund is May 31. Applications may be submitted to Susan Shockley or Santy Hunter, or mailed (Gregory Memorial PC, P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875) or brought to the Church Office.

"These Days" (Apr.-Jun.) magazine is available in the Narthex. This daily study guide is provided free of charge to the congregation. *Pick up your copy today while supplies last!*

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Courthouse Rd. / P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875
www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva
Telephone: 804.732.1081 - Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pastor: As announced

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)
Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings
Treasurer: Susan Shockley Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)
Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Shill* (2023)
Rose Scott (2024); _____* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)
Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)
Donald Hunter - Clerk of Session (2023)

Trustees

Gail Rollings (2023); Donald Hunter (2024); Ron Recher (2025)

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



Christians Who Love and Care.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." Revelations 22:12-13

PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 2, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God. We pray that you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to quiet stillness of God's presence!

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS** Sandy Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Dr. James Taneti

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading; from Matthew 21:5, 9*]

One: Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey.

All: Hosanna to the Son of David!

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven!

***OPENING HYMN #196 "All Glory, Laud and Honor"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

As we enter Holy Week, let us prepare our hearts to follow Jesus to the cross by confessing all that turns us from our Savior's path.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [*In unison; based on Psalm 130*]

Father of Jesus, forgive our lack of respect and attention as your son enters this most painful of weeks. Like the disciples, we fall asleep when Jesus asks us to stay awake and pray. Our minds wander as he sets his path straight for Jerusalem to speak truth to power on our behalf. We are careless with our faith, while Jesus acts with extraordinary love. Forgive our inattention. Remind us of the salvation you offer in Jesus Christ. Amen.

[*Pause for a moment of silent confession*]

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Those affected by earthquakes and cholera in Turkey and Syria
First-responders, world-wide
Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters
Families, persons impacted by gun violence
People of Ukraine
Those in our community suffering from mental/physical illness, loss, grief or hardship
Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
Becky Scott Smith
Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother
Verne & Clara Smith
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues)
Eddie Frankenstein
Grace Cibula
Etta Holc
Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)
Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)
Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)
Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)
Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)
Randy Warthan (health issue)
Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue)
Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)
Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter
Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)
Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)
Charlie Perkins (health issue)
Chris Ashby, Wayne Powers' granddaughter Brittney's husband
(health issues)
Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)
John Kephart, Grace Cibula's nephew (heart surgery on 1/12)
Tara Foster (recovering at home from surgery: kidney stones)
Billy Robertson (recovering from eye surgery)
Shirley MacNeill (hospitalized, moved to SSRMC)
Congratulations to new parents Morgan & Josh Ingram on arrival of daughter, Rigsby (b. 3/17!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	APRIL 2	APRIL 9
S	Palm Sunday Begin Holy Week 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. James Taneti	Easter 7a Sunrise Service, followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel
M	1p Worship Cmte 3	6p BSA Crater Dist. Karakona Ch 19 Nawakwa Lge 3, Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm) 10
T	6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm) 4 6p Congregational Care Cmte	1p Circle (Location: TBA) 11 7p Finance Cmte
W	5	12
T	Maundy Thursday 6 6a Clean Church 7p Maundy Thursday worship service at Rosewood Presbyterian Church (5500 Oaklawn Blvd.)	6a Clean Church 13 2p News articles due 7p Faith Cmte
F	Good Friday 7	Fellowship Hall Reserved For event set-up 14
S	Holy Saturday 8 Great Vigil of Easter	Fellowship Hall Reserved For Special event 15

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
March 5, 2023	18	13	12	1
March 12, 2023	23	11	11	2
March 19, 2023	23	9	13	
March 26, 2023	24	22	11	

M=Members V=Visitors

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor; Psalm 118:1]

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!” In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [Pastor]

Divine redeemer, center us today in your holy Word. Liberate us from the distractions of daily life and the sins which constrict and close our minds. Help us to hear the truth you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

Old Testament Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10 p. 773
 New Testament Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11 p. 802

SERMON “Beyond the Palms” Rev. Dr. James Taneti

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #460 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostles' Creed]

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

God has given us everything, including the life of God's son. Let us honor God by giving generously of ourselves in return.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY HYMN #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

God of grace, you amaze us with your grace and the depths of your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless the energy, intelligence, imagination and love we put into furthering Christ's ministry among your people. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Pastor, responsive reading]

One: Holy God, we shout, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, while acknowledging the crucifixion and the real suffering of your people. In this moment of prayer, hear our cries for mercy, peace and justice.

All: Reassure us with your promises, Holy God: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Source of life and love, hold those who are grieving; those who have lost loved ones. Accompany these grieving souls in their journey with death, allowing them to experience the peace of your presence and the gentle guidance of your hand.

All: Reassure us with your promises, Holy God: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Prince of Peace, friend of the oppressed and the marginalized, offer hope to those abandoned and ignored. Guide us as your architects of grace. May your people live in the safety and security each deserves.

All: Reassure us with your promises, Holy God: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Savior God, wounded healer, befriend the sick and their caregivers. Look with mercy on those struggling with physical pain and illness. Heal the heartsick and apply your balm of love on all your hurting people.

All: Reassure us with your promises, Holy God: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Mighty Prophet, speak truth to those who abuse their power, oppress others for their nation's or personal gain, and betray dignity of human life. Right what is wrong among warring nations, Holy God, and empower those who thirst for peace. May we instead wage Christ's nonviolent love in a world intent on waging violent wars.

All: Reassure us with your promises, Holy God: "God's steadfast love endures forever."

One: Now, as your people gather on this Sabbath day, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, "**Our Father...**"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

[Follow liturgy from "The Sacrament of Holy Communion" insert]

***DEPARTING HYMN #275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

***BLESSING**

One: We have been blessed!

All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.

One: We have been blessed!

All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.

One: We have been blessed!

All: We go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor, BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP]**

Beloved people of God; I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe this Holy Week by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on God's word.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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