

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT | MARCH 8, 2026

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*The prelude provides an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God by being still and quiet.*

**Prelude** *Chorale Prelude on "Liebster Jesu"* J. S. Bach  
Dan Lawhon

**Welcome** Erica Cooper

**Choral Introit** *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* LIEBSTER JESU

**Processional Hymn No. 265** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* DUKE STREET  
[Hymn sheet on page 3](#)

**Call to Worship** Micaiah Damron Seruyange

One: We come with our doubts, our fears, and our failures.

**All: Jesus meets us with steadfast love.**

One: Even when we stumble, Christ remains faithful.

**All: We come seeking grace that restores.**

One: Let us worship the God who welcomes us as we are.

**All: We gather to be renewed by mercy and truth.**

**Prayer of Invocation** Paxton Vaughn

**Hymn No. 187** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* BRADBURY  
[Hymn sheet on page 4](#)

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**Sermon on the Steps** Patrick Chappell

**Hymn No. 833** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* ST. MARGARET  
[Hymn sheet on page 5](#)

**Psalter Reading** Psalm 17:1-7 Jill Holley

One: For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Choral Call to Prayer** *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* SOUTHWELL

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer** Bart Grooms

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Gospel Reading** John 18:12-27 Erica Cooper

One: For the Word of God for the people of God,

**All: We give thanks to God.**

**Anthem**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*  
Covenant Choir

Robert T. Petrich

*Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,  
That man to judge you hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.  
Who was the guilty?  
Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
‘Twas I, Lord Jesus,  
I it was denied thee: I crucified thee.  
Lo, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
The slave hath sinned and the Son hath suffered,*

*For man’s atonement, while he nothing heedeth,  
God intercedeth for man.  
For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,  
Thy mortal sorrow, thy life’s oblation;  
Thy death of anguish, thy bitter passion,  
For my salvation, thy incarnation for my salvation.  
Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,  
Think on thy pit and thy love unswerving,  
Not by deserving.*

**Sermon**

*Love that Remains Faithful When We Fall Short*

Erica Cooper

*RESPONDING TO THE WORD*

**Invitation to Christian Commitment**

Erica Cooper

**Hymn of Response No. 215**

*What Wondrous Love is This*  
[Hymn sheet on page 6](#)

WONDROUS LOVE

**Welcoming New Members**

Jan Bell, Tim Blanton, and Kayla Oliver

Don Peppenhorst

**Personal and Corporate Commitments**

One: We commit that we will:

**All: Embrace in membership all persons who desire to follow the Way of Jesus.**

One: Embody the love of Christ in our relationships, caring for the full well-being of one another.

**All: Proclaim a responsible and free Christian faith that is relevant, socially concerned, and deeply committed to the good news of Jesus.**

One: Minister with our community in a free, creative, and flexible manner.

**All: Provide programs for Christian Education and Spiritual Formation that are inclusive and responsible.**

One: Personally, I commit that I will:

**All: Seek a deepening relationship with Christ through spiritual practices.**

One: Live in a way that demonstrates my response to the values of our church.

**All: Worship God regularly with our church.**

One: Engage in education and ministry activities of our church.

**All: Give of myself and my resources in loving concern for our church, its members, and my community.**

**Words of Dedication**

Charlie Mae Damron Seruyange

**Reception of the Offering**

Ushers

Giving sacrificially of our money is one tangible expression of a wholehearted self-giving stewardship of all of life.  
Monetary offerings may be given online at [baptistchurchofthecovenant.org/giving](http://baptistchurchofthecovenant.org/giving).

**Offertory**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*  
Dan Lawhon

Alice Jordan

**Offertory Response**

*Doxology*

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Christ, all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

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# 265 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners  
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name, like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song, and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to loose their chains; the wea - ry find e -  
 cu - liar to our King; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume, shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud A - men!

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



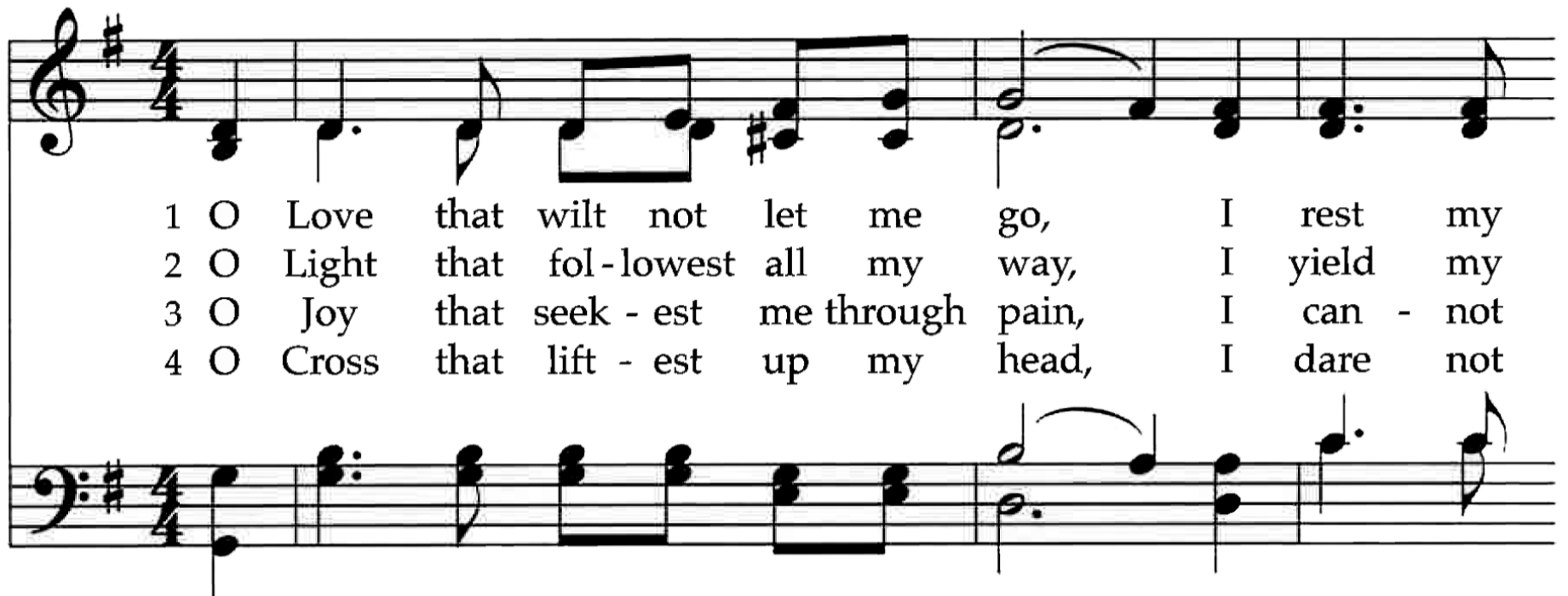
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.




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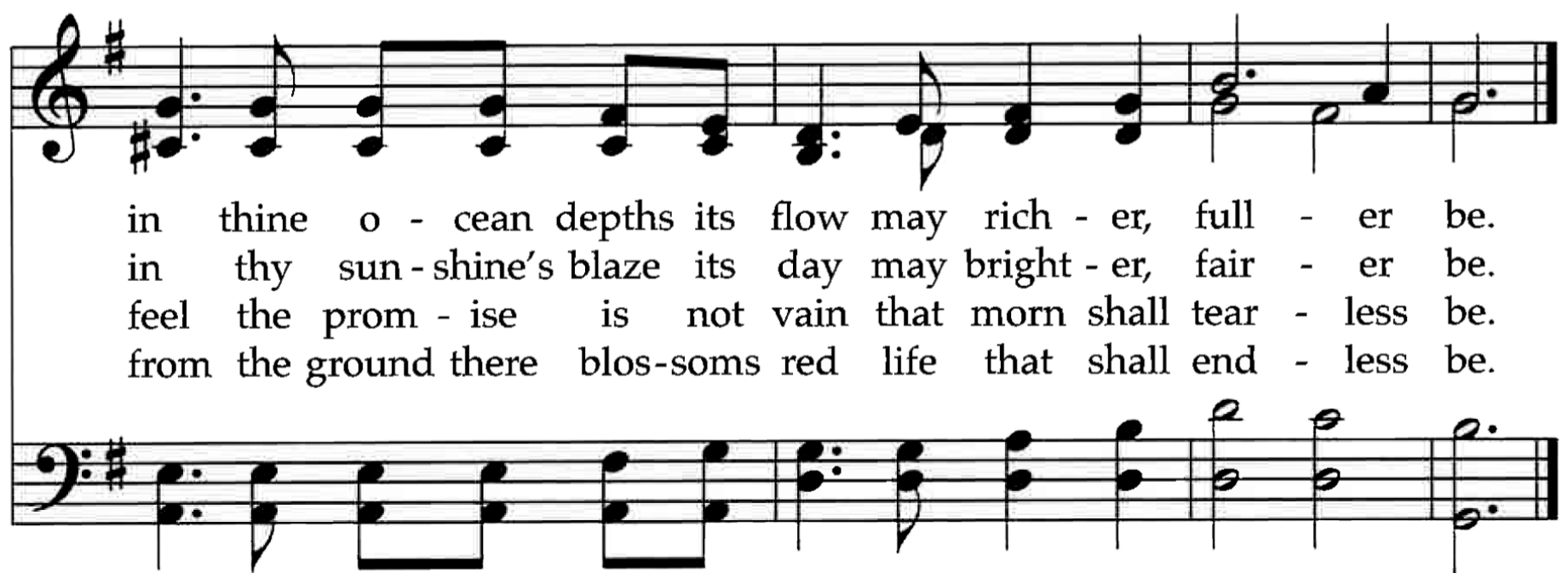
# O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 833



1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not  
4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not



wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
flick - ering torch to thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
close my heart to thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain, and  
ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

# What Wondrous Love Is This 215



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing  
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What  
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to  
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and



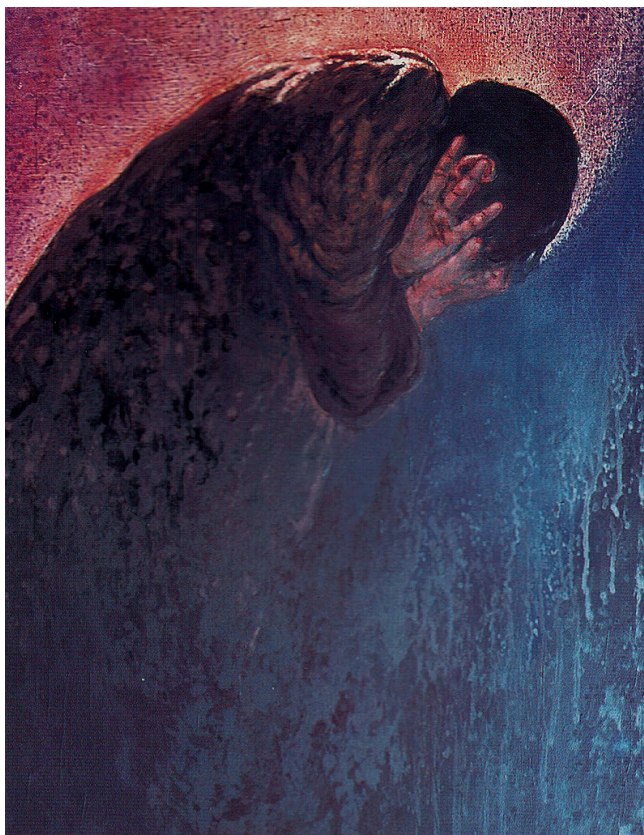
won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous  
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful



bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my  
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing



soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!  
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!  
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



Cover art: *Peter's Denial* by Frank Wesley

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Today at 5:00 pm

The monthly meeting of our Caregivers Support Group is today from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The group facilitated by TJ Hunt-Felke will be gathering in the Bock Mayse center to explore aspects of caring for a family member. TJ Hunt-Felke, Ph.D., M.Div., is a clinical psychologist at Cahaba Psychology in Hoover. He brings experience leading church-based groups and individual support for general mental health conditions and is excited to serve the caregiving group now. If you have any questions, please reach out to TJ Hunt-Felke.

### SALT SHAKERS DINNERS Saturday, March 14

Anyone who is interested in hosting or attending can contact Sarah Davison or the church office. Groups of 6-10 meet in someone's home and everyone brings a dish to share! Salt Shaker dinners are a wonderful opportunity to get to know folks you might not otherwise spend time with.

### BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS

The Bread for the World Team set a goal for the congregation to write 300 handwritten letters for this year's campaign. We encourage you to handwrite 2 letters to your US Senators and 1 letter to your US Representative. Come and see us at the Bread for the World table in the Fellowship Hall for resources and help writing your letters!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP March 11

This March, we're learning about neurodiversity, learning styles, and mental health and asking how this information can help us practice community within our own church family. Join us for a three-week series focused on learning about the different generations within our building and strengthening those connections.

Our mid-week fellowship meal is in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. You can make a reservation online. Reservations must be in by Monday at noon.