

## Saint James Lutheran Church

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A Parish of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



"Growing in Christ Through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service"

## Welcome!

St. James is a house of prayer where all people can come to know the compassionate heart of Jesus. We are a community of Christians where you can belong before you believe. At Saint James the beauty of worship ancient and traditional spiritual practices transform contemporary lives. Join us as together discover the sacred in the heart of the city. Our worship ancient includes and contemporary symbols and practices along with preaching and music to inspire you to follow Jesus in your daily life. We welcome both the spiritual seeker and seasoned disciple to find their home in God with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home or just exploring the life of faith, we hope you will walk with us on that journey of discovery.

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 26, 2023 10:00 A.M.

### Introduction to Today's Worship

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

#### Welcome!

**Newcomers and visitors,** we hope that you will feel at home in this place and in this liturgy. Ushers are available in the Narthex during the liturgy should you have any questions or concerns. Please be sure and sign the guestbook located in the Narthex and introduce yourself to the Pastor or to an usher so that we can extend to you a warm welcome.

Although there are customary postures (such as standing and kneeling) in Lutheran worship, you are invited to be seated at any point, according to your needs and comfort.

Children are most welcome in worship at Saint James Church. For those who desire it, nursery care is provided on the first floor of the Education Building.

The First Aid Kit and the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) are located outside the church office door, immediately behind the Sanctuary. Fire extinguishers are located in the Sacristy and in the Narthex.

If you are interested in membership to this parish or desire a call from the Pastor, please indicate this to an usher or to the Pastor.

Restrooms are available on the first and second floors of the Education Building.

**Pew Pads** are on the end of each pew (*near center aisle*), please sign and pass so that we have a record of your attendance and communion.

#### St. James Lutheran Church Facebook and Instagram groups

Send Joseph Beasley any pictures and/or articles you would like to have posted at joseph.f.beasley@gmail.com @stjamesnc

St. James YouTube Channel Go to youtube.com, search for stjameslutheranconcord and subscribe.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for 2023 have finally arrived. You may pick up yours in the area at the end of the office hallway. If you need them mailed to you, please contact Jill Irvin.

FOOTWASHING: We are looking for a few individuals who would like to participate in footwashing during the Maundy Thursday worship service. Contact the church office, if you would like to participate.

# EASTER SUNRISE BREAKFAST: Sunday, April 9 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign-up if you plan to attend.

**EASTER LILIES:** The deadline for ordering Easter Lilies is April 3. The link to order lilies is on the church website under SIGN UP.

#### EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

6:30 am Sunrise Service 8:00 am Breakfast 10:00 am Festival Worship Service



#### WELCOME

#### Voluntary

#### In Deepest Woe

Robert J. Powell

Congregational Responses in Bold

(Stand)

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\Phi$  one God, who redeems us in Christ Jesus, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(Kneel or sit, as able)

Silence is held for reflection and self-examination

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

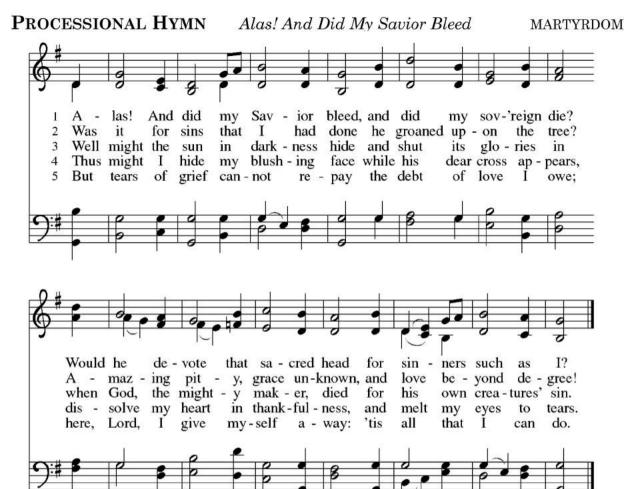
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Stand)



#### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME / CHILDREN'S CHURCH

#### FIRST READING EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from Ezekiel, the thirty-seventh chapter.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord ▲ and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." <sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 130** (Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

<sup>3</sup> If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

- <sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope:
- <sup>6</sup> my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
- <sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

#### SECOND READING ROMANS 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans, the eighth chapter.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>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, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

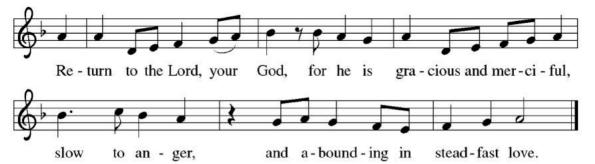
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### (Stand)

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, Your God



#### HOLY GOSPEL JOHN 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>Marv was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death: rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. 7Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." 11After saving this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." 12The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." 13Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup>For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." <sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

<sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35Jesus began to weep. 36So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." 45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

SERMON

Pastor Craig

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

(Next Page)

#### APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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



#### (Kneel or sit, as able)

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

#### A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe especially Rev. Craig Sigmon and our brothers and sisters in Christ at Reformation Lutheran Church in Taylorsville, NC, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness especially those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(Stand)

Sharing of the Peace (This can be done verbally with no physical contact, if desired)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

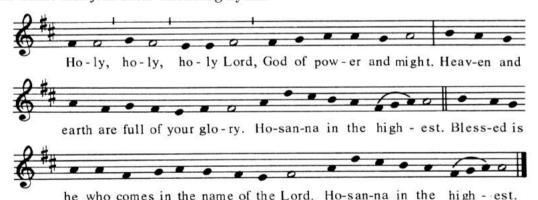
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us; we are bold to pray,

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

(Sit)

All baptized Christians are welcome to Holy Communion at St. James. If you desire to receive Communion, please proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle. The ushers will direct you. You will receive a wafer and a cup of wine. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. After communing, please use the outside aisle to return to your seat. Communion will be brought to persons in the pews who are unable to come forward to the altar. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so.

#### LAMB OF GOD

#### Choir and Congregation



Lamb of God, you take a -way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant \_\_ us peace.

#### ANTHEM

My Eternal King

Jane Marshall

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

#### BLESSING

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

#### SENDING HYMN

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#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Adagio

John Travers

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con-trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,





from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and the . . . won - der of his glo-rious love and my un-wor-thi - ness. my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.



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I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE Contributors: Suzanne Toolan Tune: © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc, Text: Based on John 6 and 11; © 1966, 1970, 1986, 1993, GIA Publications. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE A-735002 All rights reserved.

#### SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH PO Box 684 CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA 28026 CHURCH OFFICE 704.786.0166 WEBSITE www.sjnc.net DIRECTORY Members of Saint James......Ministers The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton...Presiding Bishop The Rev. Dr. Timothy M. Smith......Bishop SAINT JAMES STAFF Rev. Craig Saltzer, Interim Pastor csaltzer@triad.rr.com 336-225-7889 Keith Sutton, Parish Administrator keith@sinc.net Jill Irvin, Finance Administrator jill@sinc.net Scott F. Foppiano, Organist /

Director of Music

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Kathryn Radcliffe, Nursery Coordinator

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Debbie Davis, President

Jon Miller, Vice Pres., Mutual Ministry

Chris Miller, Secretary, Social Ministry

Kenny Propst, Treasurer

Chip Blackwelder, Property

Kim Haberman, Evangelism

Samantha Hillegass, Parish Fellowship Elizabeth Hurley, Worship & Music Beth Huss, Stewardship Frank Irvin, Finance/Christian Ed Pat McDonough, Youth Wendell Overby, Property

#### 28-Mar Skyla Hardister 28-Mar Frank Irvin 28-Mar Tim Propst 29-Mar Jerry Hopkins 30-Mar Anne Hodges

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

30-Mar Joe Propst, Jr. CALENDAR THIS WEEK

### Sunday, March 26

9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Parish Choir

10:00 am Worship 11:20 am Passion Reading Practice

11:20 am Social Ministry

Monday, March 27 10:30 am Quilter's Group Wednesday, March 29

2:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Lenten Study/

Worship 7:00 pm Parish Choir

9:30 pm College Online

Thursday, March 30 6:00 pm Handbells

Sunday, April 2 9:15 am Parish Choir

9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Please email all information to the church office at

keith@sjnc.net

Contributions and Receipts for March 19, 2023 \$14.189.95

(\$7.371.00 needed weekly)

OUR STEWARDSHIP

PRAYER LIST

Reformation Lutheran Church, Taylorsville, NC

Martha Summers Patsy Black

Tom Grady Jim Weisel

Tom Ridenhour Marga Beville

Bishop Tim Smith ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Kim Haberman

Communion Assistant: Ann Blackwelder Acolyte/Crucifer:

Jacob Rinker Greeter:

Jean Beasley

Council Person of Month: Elizabeth Hurley Videographer: Annette Propst

Ushers: Chip Blackwelder, Michael Rinker, Ashley Cline,

Jeff Koenig

Dee Pieschel, Social Ministry OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:30-4:00 F 8:30-1:00