

Emanuel United Church of Christ



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Pastor Joshua W. Rau

A warm welcome to all today!

May this time of worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve the Creator who loves us with everlasting love in Christ Jesus.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their bulletins, and sing & speak loudly!

We value the noise made by our children! We have a nursery available in our education building with a video feed of our service.

Visitors, we are glad you are here! Please sign our Guest Register and feel free to fill out a “welcome slip” in the pews.

Please come again!!

† SERVING IN WORSHIP †

Organist: *Christy Shinn*

Choir Director: *Kelly Crawford*

Reader: *Barb Chaney*



Greeting You Today

Paul & Debra Hoffmann



Given By:

Catheryn Hartle

We Keep in Prayer

Please keep in your prayers those who are in need of healing and our shut-ins and home-bound members. May God's grace surround them with comfort and care.

Mary Lou Abernathy, Pat Abernathy, LaDonia Beggs, June Borgfield, Larry Brockmire, Jeffrey Kies, Alice Koeppel, Robert Loos, Junior Peetz, Marvin Peetz, Helen Poston, Alice Quigley, Rhonda Sievers, Cindy Smith

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/euccjackson ~ **Instagram:** @euccjackson

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

***Indicates congregation please stand if able**
Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***TRINITY CHIMES** *(at the sound of the chimes, please stand)*

***INTROIT** *“You Are My All in All”*

You are My Strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek; You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord to give up, I'd be a fool; You are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again I bless Your name; You are my all in all.
When I fall down You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God so loved the world that God gave the Son.
We come to receive that love.

Christ brings light into the darkness.
We come seeking truth and new life.

The Spirit invites us to be born from above.
Renew us, O God, by your grace.

***GATHERING HYMN** *“Gather Us In”*

words on next page

GATHER US IN

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreaming, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young—our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in—the rich and the haughty; gather us in—the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth;
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray,

Loving God, you meet us in our questions and awaken us to new life through your Spirit. Open our hearts to trust your grace, deepen our faith, and shape us into people who live by your light and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, the journey of Lent calls us to walk honestly with God, to face our fears, our failures, our temptations, and our wounded places. God does not meet us with condemnation, but with mercy, healing, and grace. Trusting in the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us come before God with humble hearts, seeking forgiveness and new life as we confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always live as your faithful people. We turn away when the path is difficult. We listen to voices that distract us from your truth. We cling to fears instead of trusting your promises. We fail to love our neighbors as ourselves and to love you with our whole hearts. Forgive us, O God. Create in us clean hearts. Renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and lead us in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *"O Jesus, I Have Promised"*

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁴Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ⁵But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

¹³For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect, ¹⁵because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all ¹⁷(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

*GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not

believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Gift of Eternal Life”

***SERMON HYMN** *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

#25

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT (served in the pews)

We celebrate an open communion table, meaning that all who believe in Jesus Christ are invited to receive the real presence of Christ and share in the community of God's people, regardless of denomination. We offer both wine and grape juice, grape juice is in the center of the tray. Please hold the piece of bread or cup until all have been served.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*SENDING HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross"

#195

*BLESSING

***CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION** “Forever”

words below

***POSTLUDE**

Forever

1 Give thanks to the Lord our God and King His love endures forever For He is good, He is above all things His love endures forever Sing praise, sing praise Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong Forever God is with us Forever	2 From the rising to the setting sun His love endures forever And by the grace of God we will carry on His love endures forever Sing praise, sing praise Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong Forever God is with us Forever Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong Forever God is with us Forever
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Choir Anthem—“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” is a hymn of dedication, expressing a believer’s commitment to follow and serve Christ faithfully. It is a prayer for strength, guidance, and the assurance of His abiding presence.

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you till the end; be forever near me, my Master and my Friend; I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me, the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, now draw nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

I need thee every hour, stay thou near by; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory, you servant shall be too; and, Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend!



Easter Lilies



We will be placing a group order for Easter Lilies that will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to order one or more lilies in honor or in memory of someone, please use the "Easter Lily Order" envelope that can be found in the pew racks. Place the completed order form along with your payment in the envelope.

You may drop your envelope in the offering plate, give it to Alyssa Rau or bring it to the church office by March 15. Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Make checks payable to EUCC and write Easter Lilies in the Memo line.



*Mid-Week
Lent
Worship*

Journey of Stones
February 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Meal at 5:45pm
Worship at 6:30 pm

*Emanuel
UCC*
114 W ADAMS ST
JACKSON, MS 39201
601-442-1111
Joshua W. Rau, Pastor
WWW.EUCCMSD.COM

March 4 Lenten Meal:

Entrée will be fried chicken sponsored by JOY Class and Choir



Holy Week
AT EMANUEL

Palm Sunday Worship - March 29, 2026 10:10 am
Maundy Thursday Worship - April 2, 2026 7:00 pm
Good Friday Worship - April 3, 2026 Noon
Easter SONrise Worship - April 5, 2026 6:30 am
Easter Celebration Worship - April 5, 2026 10:10 am

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World Day of Prayer

March 6, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Emanuel United Church of Christ

“I Will Give You Rest: Come”

Matthew 11:28-30



FOOD PANTRY

For the month of March, the food pantry is in need of:

- INSTANT MASHED POTATOES (JUST ADD WATER)
- MAC N CHEESE (WITH THE VELVEETA TYPE CHEESE IN IT)
- SPAGHETTI
- SPAGHETTI SAUCE WITH MEAT

 **DONATIONS NEEDED!**



March 20 & 21

Emanuel has committed \$1,000 to the Feed My Starving Children organization; any portion of this goal not met through donations or T-shirt sales will be covered by the budget. Make donations & t-shirt checks payable to Emanuel noting "FMSC donation" or "FMSC t-shirt" in the memo line. Paying by Venmo is also an option.

T-shirts are currently available for \$15 each. Please let me know if you would like to purchase one or make a donation toward our goal.

The Packing Event will be held at the Jackson Civic Center on Friday, March 20—6-8 PM & Saturday March 21—9-11 AM and 12-2 PM. If you would like to sign up to pack, contact Geoff Shinn by Sunday, March 8 or by email geoff.shinn@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

Wed., March 4

Meditations from Emanuel on Facebook and YouTube

5:45 pm-Mid-Week Lent Meal

6:30 pm-Mid-Week Lent Service

Choir Practice after worship

Thurs., March 5

2:00 pm-Bethany Circle Meeting in Church Parlor

5:00 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg.

Fri., March 6

1:00 pm-World Day of Prayer Service

Sat., March 7

5:30 pm-Ignite Worship

Sun., March 8

9:00 am-Faith and Fellowship

10:10 am-Traditional Worship

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to YouTube and Facebook. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.

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Ways to Give