

MAKE A
SERPENT
AND SET IT
ON A POLE
EVERYONE
WHO IS
BITTEN
SHALL LOOK
AT IT AND
LIVE
Numbers 21:8



*Just as Moses
lifted up the Serpent
in the wilderness so
must the Son of Man
be lifted up that whoever believes
in him may have eternal life. John 3:14*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 14, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Folk Tune”

Percy Whitlock

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “What Wondrous Love Is This” (#666)

WONDROUS LOVE

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

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

caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my
neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

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

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent.; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*

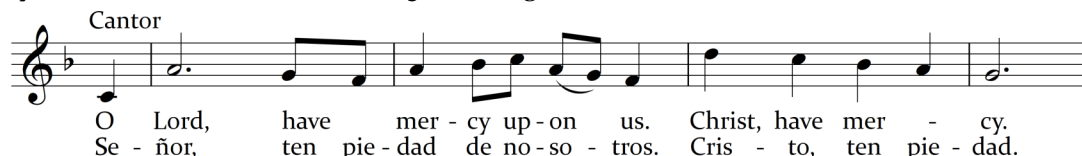
*A Litany of Sorrows and Sins

- 🔊 Hear our lament, tenderhearted God.
Receive our petitions, benevolent God.
Forgive us our sins, preserve us from evil, and protect us in death.
- 🔊 Support us, mighty God.

***Kyrie** — from *All Creation Sings*, setting 11


Ana Hernandez

Cantor




O Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.

All



O Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no - so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.

Cantor



Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.
Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.

P We have honored false gods,
desecrated your name, devalued worship,
disdained our elders, harmed both neighbors and nature,
misused sexuality, cheated and stolen, lied and slandered,
and coveted what you have given to others.

C Forgive us, loving God.

P From plague and disease,
from hunger and thirst, from injury and infirmity,
from unemployment and homelessness,
from ignorance and despair,
from loneliness and fear,
and from early or painful death,

C Protect us, compassionate God.

P Loving God, merciful, gracious, compassionate,
remember your promise to save:
remember Cain, saved from revenge;
remember Noah, saved from the flood;
remember Sarah, saved from childlessness;
remember Hagar, saved from thirst;
remember the Israelites, saved from slavery;
remember Ruth, saved from starvation;
and remember Naaman, saved from disease.

C Remember your promise, O God.

- P** We implore you, faithful God, to receive our petitions,
as you hear the prayers of your Son,
as you heed the groaning of your Spirit.
- C** Have mercy, O God. Amen.

***Greeting**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- A** And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** O God, rich in mercy, as your Son is lifted up on the cross, your love for this world is revealed and rescues us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

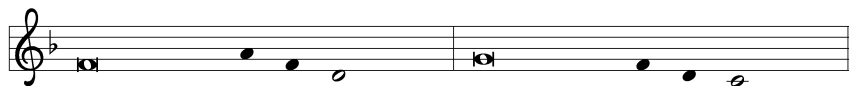
First Reading — Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 107:1-3, 17-21

*Antiphon: Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days
with wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise.*



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.** *Antiphon*

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.** *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Ephesians 2:1-10

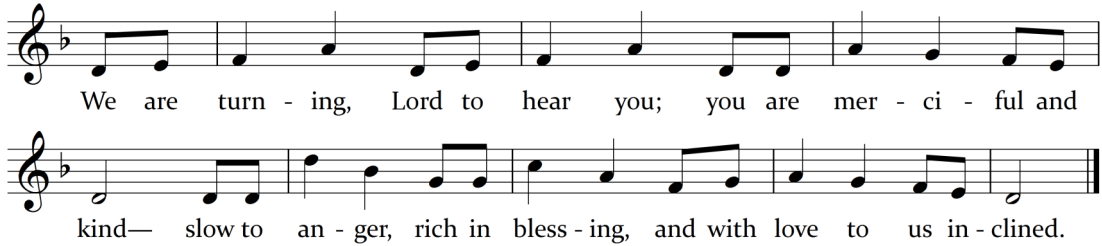
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA



*Gospel — John 3:14-21

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever trusts in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who trust in him are not condemned; but those who do not trust are condemned already, because they have not trusted in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

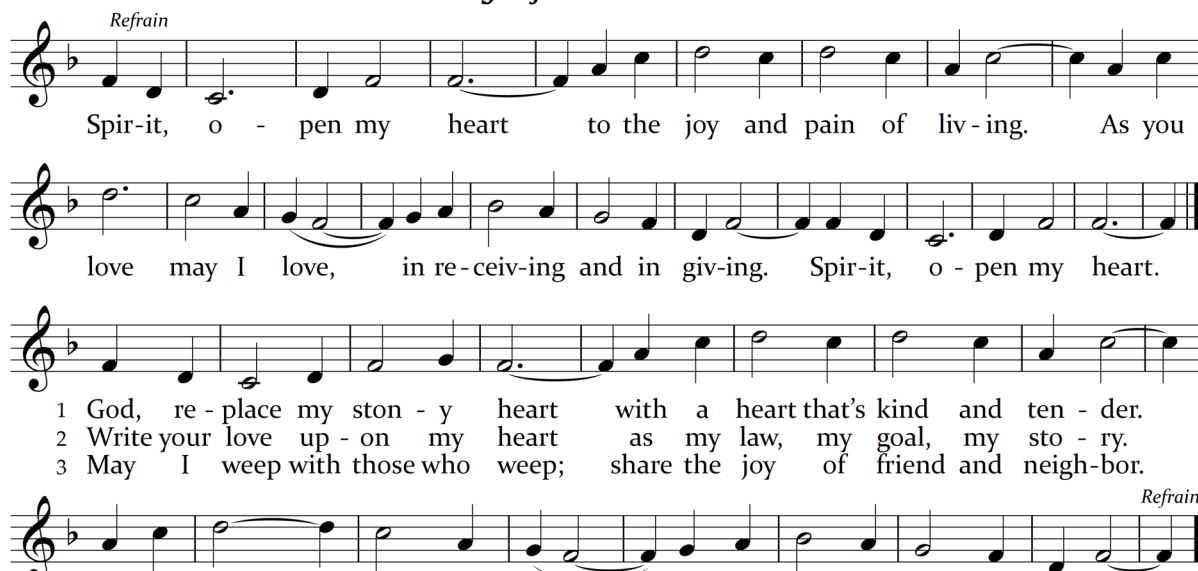
RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Sprit, Open My Heart” (ACS #1043) WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

First refrain and verse 1 — Cantor

Following refrains and verses — All

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of liv-ing. As you
love may I love, in re-ceiv-ing and in giv-ing. Spir-it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's kind and ten - der.
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my goal, my sto - ry.
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of friend and neigh-bor.

Refrain

All my cold - ness and fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
As I live from day to day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck © 1996 Pilgrim Press; Music Irish melody; adapt. Alfred Fedak © 2011 Alfred Fedak

*Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- ☒ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☒ hear our prayer.

***Peace**

- ☒ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"My Song Is Love Unknown"

James Biery

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- ☒ Gracious God, we have heard your Word of Life today.
While our sin is great, your determination to save has proven greater.
Thank you for Jesus who leads us out of the wilderness and into the community
declaring, "The kingdom of God has come near." Embolden us with the gift of
your Holy Spirit that we may share your love and salvation with all creation,
through Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.
- ☒ **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing


Response:

C Amen.

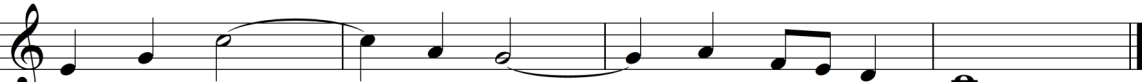
*Sending Hymn — "Lift High the Cross" (#660)

CRUCIFER


Refrain



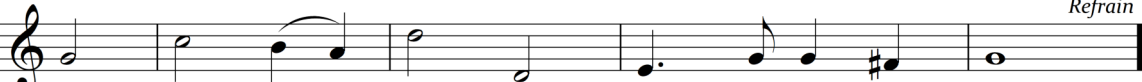
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George Kitchin; rev. Michael Newbolt; Music: Sydney Nicholson © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

***Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Epilogue”

Norman Gilbert



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	Rudser Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims

**LENTEN MID-WEEK
WORSHIP SERVICE**

6:30 P.M.

VIA LIVESTREAM



February 24

March 3

March 10

March 17



Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by St. John's Women's Breakfast Group in appreciation of staff and volunteers who work in support of the ministry of St. John's with special thanks to our pastors, organist, and technicians who provide online and radio worship. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Next available dates: April 1 & 2 and July 4, 11, 18 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Pub Theology via Zoom

Tomorrow, Monday, March 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Topic: *What is COVID teaching us?*

What have you learned? One of the early Desert Fathers, Abba Moses, famously said to his monks, "Go to your cell, and it will teach you everything." While none of us chose to enter into this year of coronavirus as a spiritual exercise, we might still reflect on what we have learned about ourselves, our homes, and others during this time. What do you still hope to reflect on further? What learning - if any - do you want to carry forward into "after" times? Does it bug you that people want to see this time as learning at all?

Easter Garden Orders for 2021

There are still a number of Easter lilies available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday service. If you would like to order an Easter lily in honor or memory of someone, or in celebration of Easter, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. The cost is \$20.

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

St. John's has accepted the Southeastern Synod's invitation to participate in 40 Together: 1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days. This Lenten financial commitment will directly support education, healthcare, and hunger relief in the lives of the synod's global partners, namely Colombia, Tanzania, and along the southern U.S. border. COVID-19 has created a variety of complications and uncertainties for these siblings in Christ and this offering allows us to do what we can to share our support. You are encouraged to watch the 40 Together videos during the remaining weeks of Lent:

- Week 1: Ash Wednesday through Feb. 21
- Week 2: Feb. 24-28
- Week 3: March 3-7
- Week 4: March 10-14

Videos are available for download from the following link: <http://semnsynod.org/events/40together/>

Announcements (continued)

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Each March members of St. John's send letters urging our Congress people and Senators to support legislation aimed at ending hunger. Here's how you can take action this year:

- Write and mail a letter to our Senator or Representatives. For a sample letter to help guide you and the addresses to mail the letters to, you can find the information attached to the weekly E-Voice, or you can pick up a copy of a sample letter at church from the Bread for the World bin placed by the Commons doors. Envelopes, the addresses, and paper are also available in the bin for you to take with you. Visit bread.org to learn more about the issues Bread for the World advocates for. For any questions, contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Join in supporting Minnesota's hunger-relief network while also advocating for and supporting long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in Minnesota. This year's campaign goes from March 1 to April 11. Please consider a donation to our local food shelf via check or online giving. If donating by check, please note Minnesota FoodShare/CAC on the memo line. Thank you!

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northfield Affiliate Planning Meeting Thursday, March 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Join NAMI Minnesota and grassroots volunteers from the Northfield area as we continue to plan for a NAMI affiliate in Rice County. This meeting will include:

- determining the service area of this affiliate
- exploring community needs
- identifying ways an affiliate can address those needs
- planning specific next steps to get the local affiliate registered with NAMI Minnesota and NAMI National
- creating a timeline for starting to deliver services in the area

To register: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tj%2oYqcOCgrD4jGNLysL7NC2kHwNwbIPa_prBlp
Once you register, you will get an email with log-in details. For more information, contact Sara at directorofoutreach@namimn.org or Kent at kent.romm@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Project 2021

With a significant gift of \$40,000 provided by St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Rice County Habitat for Humanity is embarking on its first Faith Build. A Faith Build happens when funds and volunteers are provided by the faith community to build a home with a family in need. Building a Habitat home provides the church an outlet for missions, fellowship, and putting faith into action. To prepare for this build, Habitat is forming crews. To sign up to be part of a crew, complete the form found on the website: <https://habitatricecounty.org/>.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

John Alsaker, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Susan Rudser

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Rosanne Fratzke (mother of Angie Gehring)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson,
Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson,
Howard Thorsheim, Julie Westerbäck, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Virley Brown, Elouise Quinnell, Lester Gunderson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;
Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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This Week At-a-Glance

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

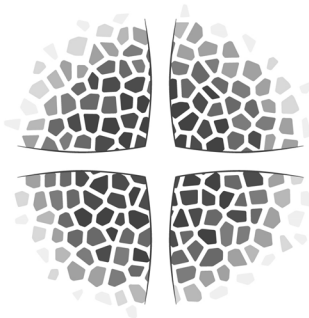
**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, Mar. 15	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
	4:30 p.m.	Audit Committee, Fireside Room/Commons
	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 16	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers via Zoom
Wednesday, Mar. 17	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Book Group via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Vespers via Livestream
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Book Group via Zoom
Thursday, Mar. 18	7:30 a.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom
	12:00 p.m.	"Jesus Sees Women," a Lenten Bible Study via Zoom
Friday, Mar. 19		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Mar. 20		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Mar. 21	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 21):

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 + Psalm 51:1-12 + Hebrews 5:5-10 + John 12:20-33



St. John's
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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.