



## Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 8, 2026

3rd Sunday in Lent

### Gathering

**Welcome and Ministry Announcements**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #408

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

**\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 95)**

Worship Leader

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**People: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

Leader: For the Lord is a great God, and a great ruler above all gods. In God’s hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are God’s also.

**People: The sea is the Lord’s, for God made it, and the dry land, which God’s hands have formed.**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

**People: For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture, and the sheep of God’s hand.**

**A Time for Children**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

**Gathering Prayer**

Fran McCormick

**Call to Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**Prayer of Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**People: God of endless renewal, God who calls us to lives restored, God who finds the lost and saves the afflicted, there are times when our way grows confused. We struggle to know what to do. Or worse, we know what needs to be done and find it easier to stay on the wrong path. Forgive us for failing to use opportunities to follow a better way. Remind us that you stand ready to forgive for those aspects of our lives that are in need of your grace. Then, help us to lean in to how we are to be.**

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

\*please stand

Leader: Who is to condemn?

**People: It is Christ Jesus, who died, yet who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.**

Leader: Believe the promise of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Word

**Old Testament Lesson**

Exodus 17:1-7

Fran McCormick

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Lesson**

Romans 5:1-11

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

“Training for the Long Road”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Middle Hymn**

“Won’t Start Now”

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

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.**

### **Prayers and Offering**

**Prayers of the People/The 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.**

### **Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Fran McCormick

**People: Holy God, from abundance, you have said that we may freely take, and freely share. As we return to you what is already yours, we ask that you bless these gifts and multiply them. May we, in turn, be blessed, as we see your reign unfolding before us, through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

### **Sending**

**\*Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #69

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky  
*Here I Am, Lord*”

**Charge and Blessing**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

## Announcements

**Candy Collection for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny** - We are collecting individually wrapped candy for the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event. If you would like to donate candy, please bring it in and place it in the box in the office.

**OneBlood Blood Drive March 8** - This morning, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Big Red Bus will be in the parking lot holding a blood drive. Each donor will receive a \$20 eGift Card, a St. Patrick's Day t-shirt, and a wellness check. To register, visit [www.oneblood.org/donate-now](http://www.oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code 31712.

**Bunko March 14** - Mark your calendars and pick out your green outfit as St Patrick's is coming to Bunko. Bring a new player and get a coupon for 1/2 off the next Bunko night. Be here at 6:00 p.m., and we will go over the rules and have a practice round, so you do not have to know how to play. All ages can play because it is the luck of the Irish, not skill, that makes the winners. A \$10.00 donation is asked per player, which includes all the games and dessert. Prizes are awarded at the end of the evening.

**Session Meeting March 15** - The Session will meet after worship on Sunday, March 15.

**Church Clean-up March 21** - Saturday, March 21, is church cleanup day to prepare the grounds for Easter. Be at the church by 8:00 a.m. with rakes, shovels, and trash bags. Trimming tools are also helpful for cleaning the memorial garden and other flower beds. We plan to finish up around noon.

**Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt March 28** - Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 28. Breakfast is from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., pictures with the Easter Bunny are from 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., and the Easter egg hunt is promptly at 10:30 a.m. A registration form can be found on the table in the narthex and in tomorrow's newsletter. Be sure to bring your own basket for the egg hunt.

**One Great Hour of Sharing February 18 - April 5** - Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion. Use the special envelopes in the friendship pads to give to this offering. To teach children about giving to this special offering, use the items on the table. Flyers containing more information about One Great Hour of Sharing can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also visit [pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing](http://pcusa.org/special-offerings/one-great-hour-sharing) to learn more.

**Financial Giving** - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



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