



321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • [www.christchurchmvl.org](http://www.christchurchmvl.org)  
*We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.*

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Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
The Second Sunday in Lent  
March 1, 2026

*Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

The Opening Voluntary “Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing” German Folksong, 16<sup>th</sup> C

Introit “My refuge and my fortress” Psalm 91

Processional Hymn (*standing*) “The God of Abraham praise” Hymn 401

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins; BCP 319  
*People* His mercy endureth for ever.

*Celebrant* Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

*Celebrant* Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Celebrant and People, kneeling or standing*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*Celebrant* The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.  
*Amen.*

**Kyrie eleison** *Sung, standing*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

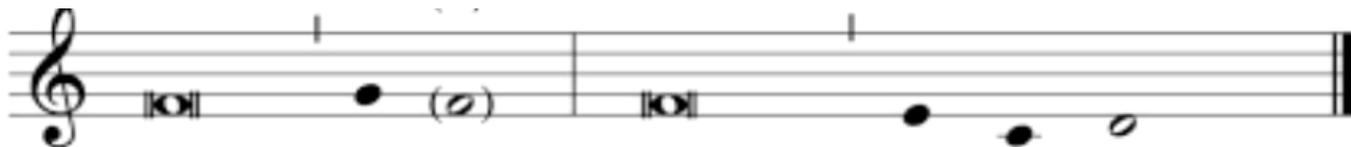
*The people sit*

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Genesis (12:1-4a)

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.



**Psalm 121** *Levavi oculos*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the /hills; \*  
from where is my /help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the/ Lord, \*  
the maker of /heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot/ be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not/ fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over/ Israel \*  
shall neither /slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches /over you; \*  
the Lord is your shade at /your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by /day, \*  
nor the/ moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all/ evil; \*  
it is he who shall /keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your/ coming in, \*  
from this time forth for /evermore.

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (4:1-5, 13-17).

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Sequence Hymn** (*standing*) "My faith looks up to thee"

**Hymn 691**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (3:1-17).

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "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."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

**The Sermon** "The Born Again Identity"

**The Rev. John Adams**

*Ideas to ponder*

- How does "born again" language make you feel?
- How might being born again change one's life?

I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 and of all things visible and invisible;  
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of his Father before all  
 worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the  
 Father;  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation  
 came down from heaven,  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost  
 of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under  
 Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again  
 according to the Scriptures,  
 and ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand of the  
 Father;  
 and he shall come again, with glory,  
 to judge both the quick and the dead;  
 whose kingdom shall have no end.  
 And I believe in the Holy Ghost the  
 Lord, and Giver of Life,  
 who proceedeth from the Father and  
 the Son;  
 who with the Father and the Son  
 together is worshiped and glorified;  
 who spake by the Prophets.  
 And I believe one holy Catholic and  
 Apostolic Church;  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the  
 remission of sins;  
 and I look for the resurrection of the  
 dead, and the life of the world to come.  
 Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

Standing or kneeling

*Reader* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Karin, our bishop-elect, and all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of Donald, our President, and all those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor *Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Hope, Doug, John, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Margaret, Ashley F., Michael, Randy M.* and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us

grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

**The Peace** *Standing*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may sit for announcements. During the announcements, the Celebrant will invite those who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this week (or whose recent birthday or anniversary has not yet been prayed for in church) to come forward so we may pray for them.*

**Offertory Anthem** "I Could Not Live Without You, Lord" Wm. Schoenfeld

**The Doxology** (*standing*) (text below) Hymnal 380, v. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer I** *Standing* BCP 333

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

*Celebrant* BCP 333 - 334

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty... evermore praising thee and saying,

**Sanctus** *Sung*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*Celebrant* *Kneeling or standing* BCP 334 - 336

All glory be to thee... O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and people*

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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Agnus Dei Sung*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*Celebrant and People*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*

*Celebrant*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalice will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalice. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.*

Communion Chant                      *“What shall one give in exchange”*                      Matthew 16, Psalm 34

Communion Hymn                      *“Humbly I adore thee”*                      Hymn 314

*Once all have received, the celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people*

*Kneeling or standing*

BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist

us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*The Celebrant offers a Solemn Prayer over the people.*

Recessional Hymn                      “Eternal Lord of love”                      Hymn 149

*Celebrant*    Let us bless the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary    “*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*”        Michael Wise - 1684

### No flowers during Lent

#### Lenten Program

Canon Fodder, our 2026 Lenten program, takes place in the Undercroft on **Monday evenings (through March 23) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**. After a light supper of soup, on March 2 Fr. John will discuss the Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament, which explains what the Apocrypha is and why the Catholic and Protestant Old Testaments are different).

#### Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant on the first Thursday of each month. The next services will be **March 5 (at 1:30 pm)** and **April 2 (at 2:30 pm)**.

#### Daylight Savings Time

**Daylight Savings Time begins March 8;  
remember to spring your clocks ahead Saturday night.**

#### Ecumenical Lenten Lunches

The churches of Martinsville are again coming together to offer lunch and a brief devotion at Noon on the Thursdays of Lent. All are invited to attend any or all of these lunches; the devotions will conclude by 1:00 pm. The schedule is:

**March 5** - First Baptist East Church - 1043 East Church St.

**March 12** - First Presbyterian Church - 1901 Patrick Henry Ave.

**March 19** - Starling Avenue Baptist Church - 932 Starling Ave.

**March 26** - Chatham Heights Baptist Church - 1235 Chatham Heights Road

#### Church History Class

Our monthly Church History class meets on **March 11 at 10:30 in the Undercroft**. This month, we will discuss the origin story of the Episcopal Church. All are welcome to join at any time, and no homework is required.

#### Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **March 11 at the Ground Floor** (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at 6:00 pm, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

#### Donate to The Bishop's Dollar Fund – there are flyers in the Narthex with details

The holy season of Lent invites each one of us to reflect on our discipleship in Jesus' name. As we walk the way of the cross through the forty days of Lent, I pray that you might consider a donation to Bishop's Dollar. Your faithful contribution to The Bishop's Dollar Fund supports a variety of needs around the diocese that are not available through

our annual budget. These funds can provide assistance to clergy, their families, and other individuals; additional mission support to parishes; honoraria and gifts to institutions connected to our diocesan ministry and mission. Your generosity will help our Bishop Elect meet needs across the Diocese when she starts her ministry with us.

You may send donations to the Diocesan Office made payable to The Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia with "Bishop's Dollar" in the memo line. Mail to: Attn: Bishop's Dollar Fund, PO Box 2279, Roanoke, VA 24009. Or donate online.

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **March: Assorted canned greens (turnip, collard, etc.). For March: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and other hygiene items.** There are many families in our community that struggle all of the seasons of the year. But, your participation in our mission to help is priceless, and we thank you so much for your dedication. Remember to pick up our assigned items when you visit the grocery store. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with stocking their food pantry for those in need. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Will Zimmer

**Chalicer:** Natalie Coleman, Hank Long

**Acolyte:**

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Chorister/Cantor:** Raul West

**Christ Church Choir:** St. Christopher's Choir

**Ushers:** Dan Cahill, Rives Coleman

**Camera Operator:**

**Counters:** Butch Hamlet, Linda O'Dell

**Altar Guild Team #2** - Valerie Payne, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Rita Hodges, Michael Hodges, Linda O'Dell, Page Beeler, Michelle Probst

**Nursery Attendant:** Caroline Davis

**2026 Christ Church Vestry**

**Year 3:** Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers, Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden

**Year 2:** Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges; Secretary, Steve Keyser

**Year 1:** Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, Ron Probst