

Glen Burnie United Methodist Church 5 Second Avenue, SE Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061

Rev. Kenneth A. McDonald 410-582-6877 pastorken@gbumchurch.org

410-761-4381

www.gbumchurch.org

office@gbumchurch.org

The Service of Worship Third Sunday of Lent

*Please turn the sound off on your cell phone

March 23, 2025 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Ringing of the Church Bells

Choral Introit Return to God Chancel Choir

Words of Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Leader Consider and remember: in the joyful times and in the sorrowful times,

what God has done for you.

People God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with

steadfast love.

Leader When you have been like the fig tree in Jesus' story that seems unable to

produce and that everyone has given up on, what has God done for you?

People God tends the soil and waters the ground, nurturing us into life with

steadfast love.

Leader Children of God, come, let us worship God who never gives up on us!

People We come to worship and cling to God, for God's steadfast love never

fails!

*Hymn Amazing Grace #378

Call to Confession (leader)

God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be. Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence so that we may prepare our hearts for change. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, we confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. Forgive us. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps; yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit. In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to kill, we are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Amen Chancel Choir

Anthem Man of Sorrows Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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. Amen.

Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Gracious God, as we bring these gifts before you, we reflect on your call to bear fruit in our lives. Like the gardener tending the fig tree, we pray that you cultivate in us the ability to use our resources for good, to grow in faith, and to bear the fruit of love, kindness, and generosity. May our collective giving be fruitful in advancing the church's mission and bring hope, healing, and transformation to all. Amen.

| *Doxology | #95 |
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*Hymn There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #121

Scripture <u>Luke 13:1-9</u>

Special Music Kathi Hiett

Message Cut It Down or Bear Fruit Rev. Ken McDonald

*Hymn My Hope Is Built #368

^{*}Benediction

^{*}Postlude

Schedule of Our Opportunities

| Today 9:00 a.m. | Heart of Worship in the Social Hall |
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10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Service broadcast on wfbr1590.weebly.com/ or 1590

AM/Facebook Live Stream

Looking Ahead

| Mar 25 th | 10:00 a.m. | Lenten Bible Study – Social Hall |
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| Apr 1 st | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Circles – Social Hall |
| Apr 1 st | 10:00 a.m. | Lenten Bible Study – Rm #59 |
| Apr 1 st | 7:00 p.m. | Deborah Circle – Social Hall |
| Apr 7 th | 10:00 a.m. | Prayer Shawl Mtg – Rm #59 |
| Apr 8 th | 10:00 a.m. | Lenten Bible Study – Social Hall |
| Apr 12 th | 9:00 a.m. | UMM Prayer Breakfast – Social Hall |
| Apr 13 th | 11:00 a.m. | Easter Cantata (no 9:00 service) – Sanctuary |
| Apr 17 th | 7:00 p.m. | Holy Thursday Service – Sanctuary |
| Apr 28 th | 7:00 p.m. | Administrative Meeting – Social Hall |