

**PRAYERS for March 26, 2023– Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Worship Assistant:** On this fifth Sunday in Lent, let us pray that You might bring us closer to the cross so that we know how much You loved us and gave Yourself for us.

**Worship Assistant:** Heavenly Father, Giver of life, we thank You for the many blessings that You have given us and for Your immeasurable love of the world. We know that Your love for Your people is far deeper than we can ever imagine. We thank You for breathing Your Spirit upon this congregation, so that our worship, our words, and our deeds abound with the fruits of that Spirit. Fill us with Jesus and give us grace to share His life with everyone we meet. We are thankful as we celebrate the baptism of Greta Jarvie this morning. Help Greta live as Your redeemed children.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Gracious God, we ask that in this Lenten time of repentance, You would draw all people closer to You so that as we confess Jesus as Lord, and that we may know Him and the power of His resurrection. Remind us to forget about the past and look to the future with faith and trust in You, O God. If we become discouraged, help us turn to You. If we are afraid, remind us to seek strength in You. Help us focus and press on and up toward what is ahead: all Your promises, all our inheritance, and our goal who is Your Son, Christ Jesus.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Jesus Christ, we want to see You just as the people wanted to see You during the days of Your flesh. Through our tears and our grief, through the pain and the tragedies, through our times of doubt and worry, through our joys and our blessings, we want to see You. Bless us with seeing eyes which will never lose sight of You, no matter what else might come between us, no matter what else might happen. Restore us when we fail, lift us up when we fall, and let not our earthly minds take possession of us. Lord, help us not let those who hate You or those who attempt to push You aside keep us from seeing You as our Redeemer and Savior throughout all the paths of our lives.

**Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** Lord God, healer of bodies and souls, You have promised deliverance to all who cry out to You. You feel the pain of the world right now, and we thank You for looking on all Your sick, suffering, and anxious people. Wrap them in Your love so that they might find Your presence and Your comfort. Watch over those who are in need of Your healing, Your wisdom, Your strength, and Your promises. We ask that You give Your comforting peace to those on our prayer list and the families and friends whose names we speak out loud or say silently in our hearts.

**(Wait at least 15 seconds for names.) Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Worship Assistant:** God our Father, be present with all who risk their lives to save the lives of others. We especially ask You to watch over all military personnel and the families that they leave behind. We ask You to guard and protect our police and our first responders. We thank You for Your protection for the faithful who suffer and struggle to live in places where they are persecuted for Your name's sake. We put our hope in You because we know that all life is precious to You and that You are in control of our world. **Lord, in Your mercy.....hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**