



## Great Falls United Methodist Church

10100 Georgetown Pike ☙ Great Falls, VA 22066

703-759-3705 ☙ [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org)

Reverend Livingstone S. Dore, Pastor

**March 17, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**“Darkness cannot drive out darkness:  
only light can do that.**

**Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”**

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

### ***We Gather in Praise and Worship***

GATHERING

Nearer, Still Nearer

Arr. Lori Line

Alice Eelman

Music Director

WELCOME & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Richard Lankford

CENTERING

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Taizé

AE

*This signals the beginning of our worship service. Let us be in quietness and a spirit of prayer.*

### ***Our Worship to God***

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

RL

L: Seek the Lord in this season of reflection and preparation.

**C: We are here to seek the Lord and his favor.**

L: Open your eyes, ears and hearts. The Lord is near to those who love him and are called by his name.

**C: We are here to worship and praise the Lord whom we love. Praise the Lord!**

\*HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

297 UMH

\*OPENING PRAYER

LD

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is always with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

**ALL: Open our minds and hearts today, O God, that in our worship and in this day, we may receive the precious things which you are waiting to give, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Greet your neighbor in the love and peace of Christ*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Carol Haver

CHILDREN DISMISSED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

in Room 12 & 15 downstairs

Dana Hanes/Riffat Hassan

## MORNING PRAYER

**P:** O God, Creator, Sovereign, Redeemer, Forgiver, Sanctifier, we gather to worship you in awe and gratitude. Each Sunday, you summon us as individuals and reshape us into your community – the church. Here we encounter you, surrounded by the signs and symbols of faith, hearing music to lift our spirits, experiencing love from one another.

**C:** **We thank you for our church, O God. We thank you for a place to lay down our mistakes, sins and shortcomings to receive your power and renewal. We thank you for a place to gain perspective on our lives and the things that trouble us. We thank you that lives are transformed, relationships are healed and hearts are lifted. May your grace reach far and wide in your creation. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN

Breath of God, Breath of Peace

3145 W&S

### *Proclamation of God's Word*

SERMON TEXT

Luke 6: 27-36 (CEB)

RL

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Questions Jesus Asked*

SERMON

**“Whom Will You Love?”**

Rev. L. Dore

### *Response to the Word*

ANTHEM

The Compassion Hymn  
Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

Colleen Giesecking  
Soloist

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God whose love is ever constant and steadfast, even when we are not. We believe in Jesus Christ who walked among us, who was betrayed and forgave and who died that we might live. We believe in the Holy Spirit, ever present with us to comfort as well as to urge us forward in the name of Christ. We believe in the church as the place where we are loved as we are and still gently encouraged to grow. We believe that we are called to be the church; to love people more than they deserve, because Christ so loves us. We believe in the miracle of life and in the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE JOYFUL GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

An Offering  
Kevin Keil

AE

\*DOXOLOGY

95 UMH

### *Send Forth to Serve*

\*HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

560 UMH

*You are invited to pin a prayer cross on the cross in the sanctuary.*

\*SENDING FORTH

\*POSTLUDE

Verso in G minor  
Donmenico Zipoli

AE

**Luke 6: 27-36 (CEB)**

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup>Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. <sup>31</sup>Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. <sup>35</sup>Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. <sup>36</sup>Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.