

# GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Glorify God  
Plant seeds of Faith  
Cultivate Disciples

ALL ARE  
WELCOME!



**GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
235 E. Guadalupe Road Gilbert, AZ 85234  
480-892-6753 [www.azgpc.org](http://www.azgpc.org)  
Pastor Christian Johnson ~ [pastor@azgpc.org](mailto:pastor@azgpc.org)  
[office@azgpc.org](mailto:office@azgpc.org)

March 1, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**PRELUDE**                      *Change My Heart, O God*                      Espinosa/Hayes  
Susan Martinez

**VIDEO**                      *No Matter What a Church Welcome*

**WELCOMING OF VISITORS AND**                      **Pastor Christian Johnson**  
**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP**                      **Liturgist–Jim Moser**

One: In shadowed paths, we lift our gaze to the hills, seeking  
rescue amid our deepest longings. Where does it begin?

**Many: With the Lord, Creator of all, ever watchful and near.**

One: In this Lenten journey, we come as weary pilgrims,  
confessing frailty and yearning for Christ's gentle mercy.

**Many: He is our guardian, shielding us from trials by day and  
fears by night.**

One: Draw near, friends, with hearts aflame—let us encounter  
Jesus, whose love redeems and invites eternal life.

**All: We surrender in awe, embraced by the God who rescues.  
Glory to our Savior!**

**\*THE MORNING PRAYER**                      **Liturgist–Jim Moser**

**Merciful Father, faithful Protector, we adore you for the mercy  
poured out in Jesus Christ. In our frailty, we long for your  
presence, drawn like pilgrims to your compassion. You, ever  
vigilant, hold us in tender care, revealing love that heals and  
saves. Awaken us to your grace, O God; let us abide in humility,  
encountering Christ who mends our brokenness. Amen.**

**\*HYMN**                      *Rock of Ages*                      Hymn 438

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, Keeper of our souls, we confess that we have strayed from Your watchful care, turning to idols of our own strength and wisdom for rescue. In our pride, we ignore Your unfailing help, stumbling in the darkness of doubt and sin, forgetting that You alone sustain our every step. Forgive us, O Lord, for resisting Your tender mercy; renew our trust in Christ, who came not to condemn but to save. We now turn to silent confession, laying our burdens at Your feet...**

## **TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **\*RESPONSE**

Hymn 582

***Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me***

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

### **GOD'S WORD FOR OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

**Pastor Christian**

All children are welcome in the front

*Parents - livestream in progress (kids in front will be viewed online)*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jim Moser, Liturgist**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: John 3:1-17**

**Thanks be to God!**

### **ANTHEM**

***10,000 Reasons***

**Chancel Choir**

### **VIDEO**

***Come to Me Second Sunday***

### **SERMON**

***A God Who Rescues***

**Pastor Christian Johnson**

**Scripture: Psalm 121 NRSVUE**

**Thanks be to God!**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The 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**



**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Christian Johnson**

**POSTLUDE**

*When We All Get to Heaven*

Wilson/Hayes  
Susan Martinez

**\*If you are able, please rise in body or spirit.**

**Attendance last Sunday: 69**

**Thank you to our Worship and Tech Teams,** Susan Martinez, Bruce Jackson, Gaill Blackburn, Damian Martin, Roy Martin, Amy Johnston, Britney Blackburn, Alex Martin.

**Thank you to those Serving today:**

Liturgist: Jim Moser

Music Director: Damian Martin

Hymn Leaders: Chancel Choir

Pianist/Organist: Susan Martinez

Time with Children: Pastor Christian

Ushers: Marla Jackson, Mary Sumner, Carole Blake

Communion Servers:

Diane Schans, Greg Smith, Mary Sumner, Marla Jackson

## ***Announcements***

### **FOOD COLLECTION FOR FPC FOOD PANTRY**

We are collecting food for FPC Food Pantry, today, please place your donations in the boxes in the Narthex.

### **CLOTHING NEEDED FOR FPC MESA MERCY MARKET**

FPC Mesa is once again accepting clothing donations for their Mercy Market. They are **especially in need of men's and women's SPRING clothing ONLY**. If you have items to donate, please bring them directly to FPC Mesa. The preferred drop-off time is Friday mornings between 8:00 and 9:00, but you can drop off anytime during office hours, M-F 9:00 to 3:00.

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

Now through March 25 @ 2:00pm all are welcome to join with our friends from FPC Mesa at FPC Mesa to attend a Lenten Service. Each service is approximately 50 minutes emphasizing experiential, kinesthetic, and spiritual elements to foster personal reflection and embodied prayer. The theme complements the Sunday sermon series, “*At the Mercy of Christ*” by focusing on personal journeys through life’s “wilderness” to discover God’s sustaining mercy. All are welcome!

## **2026 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

There are copies of the Lenten devotional available in the Narthex for those who wish a paper copy, if you would like an electronic copy please contact Liz in the church office.

## **SPRING SPLASH – WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

Join us for Spring Splash with Paradise Earth Academy THIS Friday, March 6 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

**Volunteers are needed to set up and supervise fun activity stations for the kids. We are also in need of CLEAN 5 gallon buckets to borrow for our games.....** Please call or text Kitty Burgess at 480-580-6522 if you can help in any way.

## **EVMC LUNCH PREPARATION**

On March 15 we will again prepare sack lunches for the East Valley Men’s Center. This will take place after church at about 10:15 AM on that Sunday in the Palmer Center. It usually takes 1-1 ½ hrs.

Assistance is requested in purchasing the needed supplies, preparing the 400 sandwiches, and packing the sacks with them. Below are two links for volunteering. One link is to help prepare the lunches on Sunday, March 15, and the other is to bring some of the needed items. Your help will be greatly appreciated. EVMC provides food, shelter, basic needs, training, and work assistance, counseling, and educational classes for homeless men.

### **Lunch Ingredients:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FACAD2EA4FAC07-62407646-evmc>

### **Volunteers:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FACAD2EA4FAC07-62408180-evmc>

*If you experience any issues signing up, please contact Liz in the church office and she will be happy to assist you.*

### **PINK PRAYER CARDS HAVE RETURNED**

Pink Prayer Cards are now available in the pews for submitting prayer requests. Please complete a card and place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Prayer requests will be distributed via our Prayer Chain on Monday or Tuesday. If you are not on our prayer chain and would like to be, please contact Liz in the office.

## *GPC General Information*

**FIRST TIME GUESTS** - Welcome to our first-time visitors. A packet of information about our church is available in the entryway or from an usher. We're glad you're here!

**OFFERINGS/DONATIONS** – You may donate to Gilbert Presbyterian by going to <https://www.azgpc.org/giving-options.html>. Thank you for your support.

**REMINDER** – Please silence all phones/electronic devices. Thank you.

**LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?** - If you're thinking about joining Gilbert Presbyterian Church, PC(USA), or would like a refresher course on what being a Presbyterian Christian means, please call the church office at 480-892-6753 to let us know of your interest.

**NURSERY CARE** - Nursery care is available in the Palmer Center for Nursery/Toddler care thru 5 years old with our Nursery Attendant Britney Blackburn.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** - We invite everyone to join us following our worship service this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Palmer Center.

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Our bible study, meets every Wednesday at 11:00 am in the overflow. All are welcome!

## **GPC CHOIR**

Our choir rehearses every Thursday at 7:00pm! All are welcome to join!

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Our Bible Study SS Class meets at 10:30 am in Room 7. Come join us. We enjoy each other and learning new things.

## **VIDEO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We will continue watching a 6-part series called "He Chose the Nails" narrated by Max Lucado. Max will guide us in examining the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you". Please join us for faith, fellowship, and fun. We meet each Sunday at 10:30am in Room 6 of the Palmer Center. All are welcome.

### ***Happy March Birthday to:***

March 1: Kevin Burgess

March 2: Cheryl Williams

March 3: Jim Moser

March 5: Marla Jackson

March 7: Dale Burger

## **This Week at GPC**

### **Sunday, March 1, 2026**

#### **Communion and Food Collection Sunday**

**9:00 am** – Online & In Person Worship Service

**10:00 am** – Coffee Time in the Palmer Center

**10:30 am** – Video Sunday School

**10:30 am** – Adult Sunday School

**1:00 pm** – Revival Presbyterian Church Service

### **Monday, March 2**

**7:00 pm** - CE Meeting

### **Tuesday, March 3**

**8:00 am** - Men's Breakfast

**10:30 am** - Stewardship Committee Meeting

**6:00 pm** - Mission Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 4**

**11:00 am** – Bible Study @ GPC

**2:00 pm** – Lenten Services at FPC Mesa

### **Thursday, March 5**

**9:00 am** - Worship Committee Meeting

**7:00 pm** - Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, March 6**

**1:00 pm** - Spring Splash Event with PEA

### **Sunday, March 8**

**9:00 am** – Online & In Person Worship Service

**10:00 am** – Coffee Time in the Palmer Center

**10:30 am** – Video Sunday School

**10:30 am** – Adult Sunday School

**1:00 pm** – Revival Presbyterian Church Service



FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2026  
1:00PM - 3:00PM

JOIN US FOR OUR 2026

# SPRING SPLASH

WITH PARADISE EARTH ACADEMY

GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP  
AND SUPERVISE STATIONS FOR A  
FUN DAY OF DIFFERENT KID  
ACTIVITIES!

SPEAK TO FRED LENZ  
OR KITTY BURGESS



HAVE FUN WITH THE STUDENTS OF PEA AND ENJOY THE  
LAUGHTER AND JOY WE BRING!

# *Lenten Services*

Wednesdays, February 25-

March 25 @ 2:00pm

with our friends from FPC Mesa

All are welcome to join





**2026 Lenten  
Devotional  
is available in  
the Narthex  
Electronic  
copies available  
Contact the  
Office**





## HYMN INSERTS

### 438 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands.  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling;  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when my eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side which flowed  
Could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



Though scholars discredit the story that this hymn was written when the author found shelter under a large rock during a thunderstorm, the popular appeal of that conjecture perhaps lies in the energy of this plea and the vividness of its imagery drawn from many biblical sources.



be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.  
all for sin could not a - tone. Thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



# Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G)  
B $\flat$

(D) (G) (D)  
F B $\flat$  F

(G)  
B $\flat$

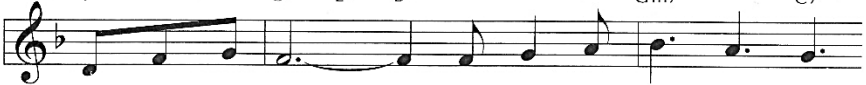
(D) (Em) (D)  
F Gm F



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,  
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G)  
F B $\flat$  E $\flat$  B $\flat$

(Em7) (A7)  
Gm7 C7



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

(F#) (Bm)  
A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7)  
Dm7 F Ddim7

(Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)  
Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

Praise God, from Whom  
All Blessings Flow  
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise \*him, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise \*him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

\*Or "God"

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709  
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551

OLD HUNDRETH  
LM

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:  
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;  
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.  
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

**First Reading: John 3:1-17 NRSVUE**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** 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 unless God is with that person.” **3** Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” **4** 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?” **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ **8** 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.” **9** Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” **10** Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? **11** “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. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** “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. **17** “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.

**This is the word of God!**  
**Thanks be to God!**

Assurance of God's Protection

A Song of Ascents.

1

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?

2

My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

3

He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4

He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5

The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

6

The sun shall not strike you by day  
nor the moon by night.

7

The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

8

The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

**This is the word of God!**

**Thanks be to God!**

