



# Journeying in Grace

## MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 15th, 2026 | Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM Theme: Renewed in Mercy

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

*We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.*

The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

*We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.*

The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

*We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.*

Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

*Come, let us worship God as we journey together in grace! Amen.*

\* CONGREGATION STANDS AS COMFORTABLE      CONGREGATION RESPONSE IN ***BOLD Italic***

Key to abbreviations: OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament    UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS: The Faith We Sing    ++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn

#### \*OPENING HYMN

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

UMH 381

#### PRAYER OF CENTERING

*Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, you journey alongside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### \*PSALTER READING

Psalm 23

UMH 754

#### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

NT p.194

#### SERMON

"Journeying in Grace"

#### ANTHEM

The Twenty-Third Psalm

Jay Althouse

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want. We lie down when we could act, we stir the pot when we could offer peace, and we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We seek courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them. We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in you, in your grace, forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### PARDON

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

*In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.*

#### LORD'S PRAYER

UMH 895

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### OFFERING

#### \*DOXOLOGY

"My Tribute"

UMH 99

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Radiant Shepherd, you walk beside us through valleys and over mountaintops, guiding us with grace and guarding us with love. Receive these gifts as signs of our desire to walk in your ways, to live as your people, and to shine with the goodness, justice, and truth that reflect your image. Let our giving be more than ritual; let it be an act of trust, a response to your faithfulness, and a testimony of your light at work in us. In Christ's holy name, we pray, Amen*

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“Christ Beside Me”

TFWS 2166++

**\*BENEDICTION**

For all that has been...*Thanks!*

For all that will be...*Yes!*

**\*SENDING FORTH**

**\*POSTLUDE**

GREETER | Hancock Family LITURGIST | Jeanette Hendrick

FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR| Jeanette Hendrick & Bloomer-Teagues

**PRAYER LIST:** Family of Bill Kiger, Family of Carol Spencer, Beth Klopfleisch, Harry Moulton, Jackie & Dani Pentecharsky, Maryann Schneider, Pat Corcoran, Connie & Fred Lamando, Terry Coupell, Gary Psarudakis, Pat Mystkowski, Barbara Urban, Hernandez Family, Dianne Siconolfi, Rhonda Leister, Greg Hunt, Patrick Singer, Mark Geleyn, Carolyn Grossmann, Linda Ryder, David Scheer, Mike St. Jean, Joanne Green, Sue and Gregg Rhodes, Jacob Hernandez, Rebecca Suarez, Barbara Brown, Nazareth, Joe Schneider, Jim Schneider, The Tedesco Family, John Rodriguez, Geoff & Pam Sackett, Armando Avila, Agnes Halsey, David Kent, James Bennet, Joan Pauley, Lori Sheppard, Nancy McKeen, Steve Urban, Brian Sheppard, Lee Malone, Ellen Lee, Henry Salidino, Jim Lordi



**IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHILD CARE** (IN COMMUNITY RM/NURSERY AFTER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE)

**CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 8:30AM SANCTUARY**

**BELL CHOIR PRACTICE: SUNDAYS 11:30AM SANCTUARY**

**LIFE TALK : SUNDAYS 12:30PM in COMMUNITY ROOM**

**CRAFTY LADIES: THURSDAYS 9:30 AM Craft/Community Room**

**MEETING SCHEDULE and MEETING ZOOM LINK: [bit.ly/MUMCZoom](https://bit.ly/MUMCZoom)**

- **Sunday, March 15th—11:15 AM GREEN TEAM MEETING (Fellowship Hall)**
- **Sunday, March 15th 5-7PM—Tastefully British Fish & Chips Fundraiser**
- **Mondays 6PM, March 16th—March 30th —Lenten Soup & Study (H)**  
To attend Virtually, Join us via the Meeting Zoom Link at 6:30PM
- **Thursday, March 19th 6:30PM—Reconciling Ministries Team (Community Rm)**
- **Thursday, March 19th 7:30PM—Faith & Fiction Book Group (Conf. Rm)**

This month's Selection: ***Orbital*** by Samantha Harvey

- **Sunday, March 22nd—NOISY OFFERING: *Bring your change to make a change!***
- **Tuesday, March 24th—Noon—MS Support Group (H) (Conf. Rm)**
- **Wednesday, March 25th 6:30 PM—One Board/Trustee Meeting (Conf. Rm)**
- **Saturday, March 28th—CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY—*Many hands make light work!***

**HOLY WEEK**

**March 29th – PALM SUNDAY**

**Thursday, April 2nd – 6:30 pm HOLY THURSDAY Dinner Church in Fellowship Hall**

**Friday, April 3rd – GOOD FRIDAY**

**10:00 am – Community Walk of the Cross begins at Good Shepherd Church**

**7:00 pm – Tenebrae Service of Shadows**

**April 5th – 10AM EASTER SUNDAY/ Holy Communion**



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