

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
COME WORSHIP THE LORD!



PREPARATION OF OUR MINDS
(Entering worship, let us ponder these things.)
“for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.” *Isa 56:7*
“It is written,” he said to them,
“My house will be a house of prayer” *Luke 19:46*

“The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is to pray. It is not the only thing; but it is the chief thing. The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; not those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time to pray.” – S. D. Gordon

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH
March Scripture: (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

ENTRANCE INTO GOD’S PRESENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 71:15-18)
INVOCATION and THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison) *debts*

*HYMN: “God Is Here!” Hymnal # 701

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION & FAITH (unison)

Dear God, so often in my prayers I present You with my own agenda. I ask for guidance, and strength, and courage to do what I've already decided. Usually, what I have in mind is to receive from You what I think I need to get on with my prearranged plans. Too often I present my shopping list of the blessings that I have in mind for my projects, many of which may not have checked out with You in the first place. Sometimes I have little time to talk to You or listen to You. Any blessing I receive is empty unless I also receive a deeper fellowship with You. Seldom do I think of prayer each day as simply reporting in for duty and asking for fresh marching orders. Lord, I want to be all that You want me to be, and I want to do what

You have planned for me. May this worship and prayer be the beginning of a conversation with You that lasts long into the months ahead, even to eternity. Forgive me for attempting things I could not do without seeking your power and direction through prayer. For I want my life to allow your glory to increase, for that is your call to me. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*OLD TESTAMENT: 2 Chronicles 7:11-20a Bible p.431

OFFERING SENTENCE AND PRAYER (2 Corinthians 8:7)

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

OFFERTORY: Glve Thanks

(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)

Hymnal #496

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Hymnal #808

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN: “If My People's Hearts Are Humbled”.

Hymnal #719

*NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 11:1-13, 24-27

Bible p.1029

SERMON:“Are We a People of Prayer?”

PROCLAIMING THE GLORY OF CHRIST

*HYMN: “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Hymnal #623

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

DISMISSAL TO MISSION

*HYMN: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”.

Hymnal #708

*BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

(*Congregation, please stand if able.)
(** We use grape juice)



NEXT WEEK: We continue the series “Journey to Jerusalem” – our theme for Lent. May this be a season of prayer and repentance as we seek God’s loving care through this Lenten series. Prepare each week by reflecting on the Word of God through the devotional material inserted in this bulletin. Come to worship having read the scripture for the day, which Mar 10 will be Luke 10:25-37; 13:10-17.



FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
JOIN US FOR OUR LENTEN LUNCHEON

We will begin a time of learning and discussion around the series
“The Journey: The Story of the Bible from Creation to New Creation.”

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Brian Barnier, health.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Nicole Thorp, health.
- Amos Munch, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Willis Stephens, (Jon Stephens’ father), health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Jill Finch, health
- Betty Beatty, health
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Mark Gerber, health

OUR MISSIONARIES:

Nic & Christy Brenner; Robert & Nina Bruneau; 4C Church Planting; Lion of Judah Academy.

UPCOMING:

Women’s Bible Study

Every Wednesday. 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Luncheon (Sunday)

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24

Hearts and Crafts

Mar. 11th, 9:00 am

Third Thursday Prayer

Mar. 21st at 7:00 pm

DONATIONS FOR THE VETERANS HOSPITAL

The church continues collecting items for the Veterans Hospital in West Haven. There is a list of needed items in the Fellowship Hall.

HOPELINE is in need of several items. Please bring them to church and place them in the basket in the narthex.

(List of needed items is in the Narthex)

DEACONS of the church are always available to meet with you, pray with you, and hear your concerns.

PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at the Sherman Church.

A Prayer Team meets every Thursday to pray for our Church Family.

If you have an immediate prayer concern, please call or email the church office or the Pastor. We will share the need with the Prayer Team.

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

LEARNING TO PRAY

Jesus said, “Here is a way for you to pray, Father”

Luke 11:2



THE SHERMAN CHURCH
A MEMBER CHURCH OF
THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE
6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784
860-354-6114
info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org

THE SHERMAN CHURCH
March 3, 2024

**WHY JOIN A CHURCH?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?
EXPLORING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
Monday, March 11, 7:00 PM**

Why bother to be a member? The reason revolves around the concept of covenant, through which one can further grow in Christ and with one another. A covenant clarifies our purpose as Christians, unites us in mission for Christ, and deepens our commitment to one another in His name.

Is there a connection between baptism and church membership? Can belonging benefit us spiritually and emotionally?

Join the pastor **Monday, March 11 at 6:30 PM** to explore the potential and possibility of church membership. Interested but can't come that night? Let the pastor know of your interest (email, Connection Card, phone call, in person today). Please RSVP so we know who to contact in case of snow.

TRANSITION TEAM WANTS YOUR INPUT

What qualities do you want in a pastor? Personable, caring, magnetic? What skills and abilities do you think are most important for the next pastor of this church? Your opinion is important as the TT puts together a profile of "pastor next" for The Sherman Church.

Surveys will be emailed to all participants of the church. Hard copies will be available next week. Please return them by March 31, 2024

**WHAT IS A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY?
AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME OF PRAYER
FOR GOD'S PEOPLE**

It is a specific, significant, solemn gathering of God's people to pray, repent, affirm His call, and embrace His covenant relationship.

God's people periodically are faced with difficult circumstances: external persecution, natural calamities, and a disenchanted society. The Church also experiences internal struggles: dissension, disinterest, and loss of the mission to which Christ had called them. Often in a transition between leaders, there is a need to repent in the personal and corporate ways we have fallen short of the call of the Lord, while also to renew our call to fulfill the covenantal relationship offered through Jesus Christ. Now is such a time in the life of this church.

PUT MARCH 23, 10:00 AM ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!

Plan to not only join in a Solemn Assembly at the church, but also prepare your hearts and minds through the devotional "Consecrate the People" that is part of our daily Lenten Devotion inserts on days 3/15-3/22. Come seek God in a special and significant time of prayer.

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:	Rev. John Loring Carpenter, Interim Pastor
Ministers:	The Congregation
Minister of Music:	Carolyn Kopsick
Moderator:	Edna Coons
Chair of Deacons:	Charles Mastroni
Co-Chair of Trustees:	Don Coons and Lynn Paulovicks
Flowers:	Lynne Gomez
Announcements:	Aimee Suhie
Prayers of the People:	Debbie Thorp
Reader:	Kristin Stephens
Greeter:	Tara Alemany
Coffee Hour Host:	Barbara Hoag
Nursery:	Jill Finch
Usher:	Ken Leach

CALENDAR

March 3rd - March 9th

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

SUNDAY:

WORSHIP SERVICES at 10:00 A.M. (Also Live Streamed)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lenten Luncheon - Third Sunday in Lent (After Worship)

TUESDAY:

MISSIONS at 7:15 P.M. - Online

WEDNESDAY:

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY at 10:00 AM - Fellowship Hall

DEACONS at 7:00 P.M. Online

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY:

PRAYER IN THE PARLOR at 6:45 P.M

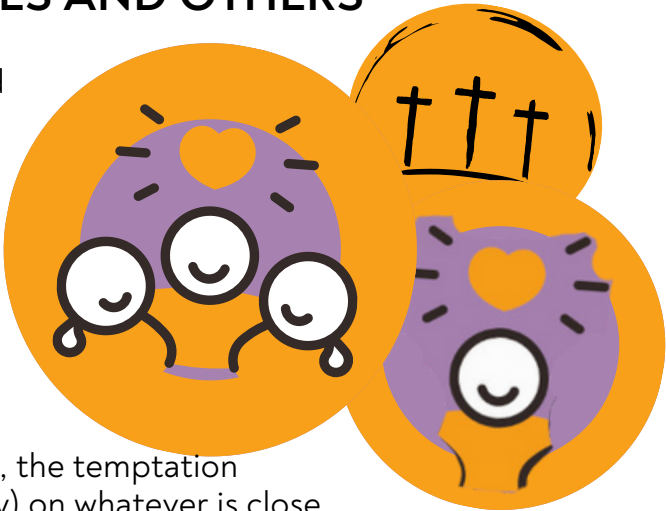
Dial-in Number: 667-770-1484; when prompted access code 357664#.

AA at 7:00 P.M - Fellowship Hall

LENT INSERT – WEEK 4
March 4th - March 10, 2024

“VALUING OURSELVES AND OTHERS”

Journey on under the cross and the shadows will pull at your being until you are empty and parched. The intermittent knowledge of what awaits in Jerusalem will take its toll, and you will know a hunger you have never known before.



Temptation will invade your life, the temptation to feed physically and spiritually) on whatever is close regardless of its value as nourishment. Pilot and Herod are waiting, God is rewriting history, you must get on the path. You grab a bite, it satisfies, and you follow your destiny. You pack you bags with what is easy to find and set out to go all the way this time.

You don’t get far when the pangs of hunger make you wonder if you were fed at all. How could you be so full and now be so empty? You blame the chef, criticize the ingredients, and, as hunger brings honesty, you turn judgement where it belongs. You have bene a cafeteria pilgrim, selecting the first thing that looks appealing, then paying for it at the end of the line.

There is another line, another meal; the last one seems less satisfying now. This time you will not settle for compressed wafers and grape juice. This time you will receive the whole, full bread of Christ and the deep red wine of forgiveness. Sacrament is up on you and your pilgrimage proceeds, know now where true nourishment is found, at the foot of the cross.

As you journey to Jerusalem, feed on the Word, and be filled.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
(After each day is space for reflection)

MONDAY
March 4th

Acts 16-14

TUESDAY
March 5th

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

WEDNESDAY
March 6th

Matthew 12:46-50

THURSDAY
March 7th

1 John 4:13-21

FRIDAY
March 8th

Ephesians 3:14-21

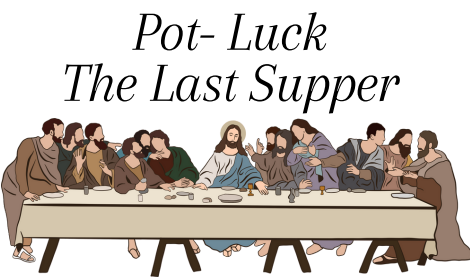
SATURDAY
March 9th

Luke 10:25-37

SUNDAY
March 10th

Luke 13:10-17

MAUNDY THURSDAY



If you will be joining us each family is asked to bring either a main dish, casserole, large salad, or a dessert.

To R.S.V.P. you can either drop this form in the collection plate, call or email Jess in the Church Office or you can call Jill Finch .

The Church Office: *Jill Finch:*
(860)354-6114 *(860)355-8707*
Info@shermanchurch.org

Name: _____

of adults _____ # of children _____

I will bring:

Main dish: _____

Casserole: _____

Salad: _____

Dessert: _____

*Our pot-luck supper will be followed by a
Communion Service at 7:30 PM*



EASTER FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

The flower committee is making plans to decorate the church sanctuary and the outside of the church for the Easter season.

Memorials will again be done by free-will donations to the Flower Fund in place of individual plant ordering.

Flower donation envelopes are available in each pew as of **March 3, 2024**. Simply place your donation in an envelope, with “In Memorial or In Honor of...” and place it in the offering plate.

The amount of your donation will only be known to the Financial Secretary of the church. If you do not live in the local area and wish to donate to the Flower Fund, please mail it, clearly marked, to the church office and your gift will be entered into the memorial folder. To be included in the memorial folder your donation should be received by **March 24th**. Donations to the Flower Fund will go to all decorations unless otherwise noted.

If you have any questions, please call the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons or Anna Galasso on Sunday morning! Keep an eye out for the next Flower Committee meeting. Anyone interested in this ministry is welcome to join us.

