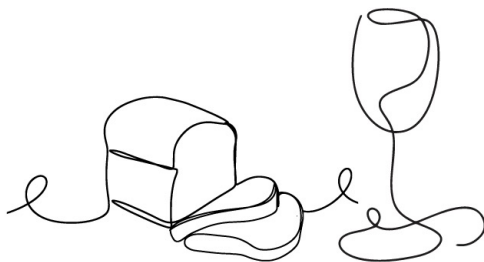

Take & Eat



Worship is an active, participatory pursuit. When we worship God, we bless Him (Psalm 103:2), and He blesses us (Psalm 67). When we worship, we are reminded who God is and what He has done (Psalm 105:1-2); this convicts us and strengthens us (Acts 16:25). The worship leadership is here to encourage everyone to set aside fear and timidity and make God their audience (Psalm 95). It is here, together, that we join with one voice to encourage each other with the truth (Colossians 3:16).

*We focus our
hearts and
minds as we
prepare to
be served by
the life-giving
Creator God.*

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION

To regard oneself as self-made and self-sufficient. This picture of the self exerts a powerful attraction because it seems on the face of it to be empowering – we can make it on our own, we can make it if we try. It's a certain picture of freedom but it's flawed.

-Michael Sandel, *The Tyranny of Merit*

The weight of lies will bring you down
And follow you to every town 'cause
Nothing happens here that doesn't happen there
When you run make sure you run
To something and not away from 'cause
Lies don't need an aeroplane to chase you down
-The Avett Brothers, *"The Weight of Lies"*

The things that we love tell us what we are.

-Thomas Merton, *Thoughts on Solitude*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. -Book of Common Prayer

WELCOME

*God Himself
through the
Bible, calls
us into His
presence to
connect with
Him in worship.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(From Psalm 100)

(Leader) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

(Congregation) Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

(All) For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*We respond to
God's gracious
invitation by
asking Him to
empower and
receive our
worship.*

SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 4

The Old Testament Israelites sang throughout their worship of God. The earliest Christians continued this practice in the first century, and we join our modern voices to this ancient practice in our worship of God.

INVOCATION

SONG OF PRAISE

PAGE 5

BE THOU MY VISION
#642, Trinity Hymnal

"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3).



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3. Be thou my bat - tle shield, sword for my fight;
4. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
5. High King of hea - ven, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art
I e - ver with thee and thou with me, Lord;
be thou my dig - ni - ty, thou my de - light,
thou mine in - he - ri - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach hea - ven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther, I thy true son;
thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r;
thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - e - ver be - fall,



wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pre - sence my light.
thou in me dwel - ling, and I with thee one.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
High King of Hea - ven, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

HE CALLS ME FRIEND

By CityAlight

In John 15, Jesus says if we follow Him that He calls them friends. And in this promise He charges us to love one another.



1. I have a friend, a faith - ful friend And Je - sus is His name.
2. I have a friend, a migh - ty friend And Je - sus is His name.
3. I have a friend, the kind - est friend And Je - sus is His name.
4. I have a friend, a Sav - iour friend And Je - sus is His name.



He will not leave, He stands by me, My Shep - herd, He re mains.
I shall not fear He holds me near, His strength will keep me safe.
He hears my cry by day or night And wipes my tears a - way.
He fought for me on Cal - va - ry And tram - pled on the grave.



His name is true King, Lord of cre-a - tion, Ru - ler without end.



I call Him hope, peace, won - der - ful Sav - iour



And what joy that Je - sus calls me friend.

SCRIPTURE READING
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
PAGE 484

*The ancient
Israelites
rejoiced
to hear the
story of God,
and the first
Christians
treasured the
communal
reading of
Scripture.
Rooted in this
tradition, we
publicly read a
section of the
Bible during
worship.*

169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word!

170 Let my plea come before you;
deliver me according to your word.

171 My lips will pour forth praise,
for you teach me your statutes.

172 My tongue will sing of your word,
for all your commandments are right.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.

175 Let my soul live and praise you,
and let your rules help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

(All) Thanks be to God.



OFFERING

We worship God by gladly giving back a portion of what he has provided for us. These resources further his mission in our community.

*We celebrate
what God has
done, giving
Him all the
credit for it.*

OFFERTORY

CORPORATE CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father, we confess before You our sinful nature. We are prone to seek what is evil and slow to seek what is good. You alone know how often we have sinned against You this week, in wandering from Your ways, in wasting Your gifts, in forgetting Your love.

*In God's
presence, we
see ourselves
as we are, and
so at His
invitation, we
confess our sin,
trusting in His
promised grace.*

Please silently confess your sin before the Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(1 JOHN 1:9)

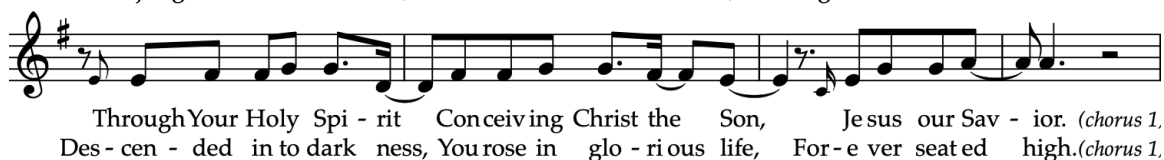
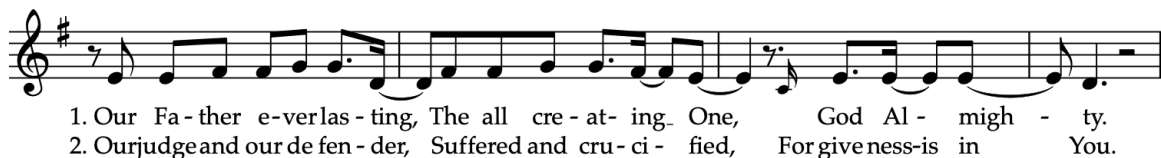
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*God declares in
the gospel that
all who repent
and believe in
Jesus Christ are
completely
forgiven from
the guilt and
shame of all
their sins.*

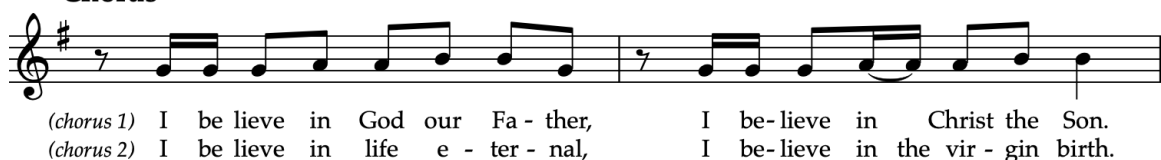
THIS I BELIEVE (THE CREED)

By Ben Fielding & Matt Crocker

For thousands of years, Christians have written creeds, summaries of what we believe. This song is based on the Apostle's Creed.



Chorus



Bridge



*One of our
leaders cries
out to God
on our behalf
for grace
and mercy,
especially for
the hurting,
needy, and
broken.*

SHEPHERDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

*During the
11:00 AM
sermon,
children ages 4
years through
2nd grade are
invited to Kid's
Worship.*

SERMON SERIES

MICAH: A MESSAGE OF JUSTICE AND HOPE

SERMON TEXT

MICAH 6:9-16

PAGE 10

SERMON

SICK & SORE

SEAN SAWYERS

It's sickening when God's people live as if He is not real.

SERMON OUTLINE

v. 9, God cares about our:

v. 10-11, Weight Loss

vv. 12-15, Eating & Drinking

v. 16, Identity

*God has
ordained
the preaching
of the Bible
to be the
chief means of
proclaiming
the good news
of Jesus Christ.*

*If you do not
have a Bible at
home, please
take one from
the chair in
front of you as
our gift.*

SERMON TEXT

PAGE 731

Micah 6:9-16

9 The voice of the LORD cries to the city—
and it is sound wisdom to fear your name:

“Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it!

10 Can I forget any longer the treasures of wickedness in the
house of the wicked,

and the scant measure that is accursed?

11 Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales
and with a bag of deceitful weights?

12 Your rich men are full of violence;
your inhabitants speak lies,
and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.

13 Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow,
making you desolate because of your sins.

14 You shall eat, but not be satisfied,
and there shall be hunger within you;
you shall put away, but not preserve,
and what you preserve I will give to the sword.

15 You shall sow, but not reap;
you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil;
you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

16 For you have kept the statutes of Omri,
and all the works of the house of Ahab;
and you have walked in their counsels,
that I may make you a desolation, and your inhabitants a hissing;
so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”

SYCAMORE KIDS' VERSION *(ADAPTED FROM THE MESSAGE)*

[9] God calls out to the people of Jerusalem—pay attention if you know what's good for you.

"Listen up. It is time for the shepherd to spank some of the flock.

[10] Do you really think I don't see your evil riches, piled up by cheating and stealing?

[11] Should I ignore the wicked store that robs its shoppers?

[12] I'm tired of you violent rich and you lying people. Your mouths do nothing but lie.

[13] I'm fed up and fixing it. What I'm going to do because of your sins will make you sick.

[14] You will eat, but you won't feel full and happy. No matter how hard you work, you'll have nothing to show for it. A foreign army will take everything from you.

[15] You'll plant grass but never get a lawn. You'll make jelly but never spread it on your bread. You'll press apples but never drink the cider.

[16] You have followed the ways of the worst kings my people ever had, and so I will do to your land around Jerusalem what I did to their land. People will make fun of your empty lives and your destroyed city, just like your lives made fun of my grace.

COMMUNION HYMN (BEHOLD THE LAMB)

By Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, & Stuart Townend



1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us:
2. The bo - dy of our Sa - vior, Je - sus Christ, torn for you
3. The blood that clean - ses ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you:

AFTER DISTRIBUTION:

4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond



and we re - mem - ber the pro - mise made that all who
eat and re - mem - ber the wounds that heal, the death that
drink and re - mem - ber He drained death's cup that all may
our call to fol - low in the
and to re - mem - ber



come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross. *(to verse 2)*
brings us life, paid the price to make us one. *(to chorus)*
en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. *(to chorus)*
steps of Christ as His bo - dy here on earth. *(to chorus)*



So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice,
So we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sac - ri - fice,
As we share in His suf - fe - ring, we pro-claim: Christ will come a - gain!



as a sign of our bonds of love a-round the ta-ble of the King.
as a sign of our bonds of grace a-round the ta-ble of the King.
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n **a-round the ta-ble of the King.**

(repeat)

We welcome
all baptized
Christians
who trust in
Jesus Christ
for salvation
and who are
members of a
congregation
that proclaims
the gospel to
take the Lord's
Supper with us.

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

(Leader) The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "Take, eat; This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Drink of it, all of you." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *(pp. from Matthew 26:26-28 & 1 Corinthians 11:24-25)*

All bread is
nut, dairy,
gluten free,
and vegan, but
contains soy.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith. *(1 Timothy 3:9)*

(All) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
(1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)

Trays contain
wine in outer
ring and grape
juice in the
middle rings.

PRAYER

(Leader) The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, and receive.

DISTRIBUTION

If you are unable to come forward but would like to partake, raise your hand after a few moments and an elder will come to you to serve the elements.

PRAYER

We depart with
this final "good
word" reminder
of the grace
given to us in
the Gospel.

COMMUNION SONG: LAST VERSE

BENEDICTION

Sunday School

*To deepen our understanding of Scripture
and our love for God through thoughtful
and engaging studies of God's word.*

ADULT - 10:00 AM

Parlor - Faith & Fellowship
Room 3 - Dust to Glory
Sanctuary - Sycamore 201 (Biblical
Theology)

CHILDREN - 9:45 AM

Kid's Sunday School teaches that it is the
gospel, not good behavior, that changes
everything.

DROP OFF ROOMS

YOUTH - 10:00 AM

Middle School students (grades 6-8) and
High School students (grades 9-12) meet
to study God's word and be encouraged
to grow in their faith.

6 Weeks - 23 mo.	Nursery Room C
2 & 3 (Toddlers)	Room 25
4 & 5 (Pre-K)	Room 24
Kindergarten & 1st	Room 24
2nd & 3rd	Room 27
4th & 5th	Room 25
Kids' Worship	Room 25
Middle & High School	Room 2

Praying Together

For the needs of our mission partners, congregation, denomination and community:

MISSIONS: Carol Donnelly, Administration with Campus Crusade

CONGREGATION: English as a Second Language Ministry

DENOMINATION: Committee on Administration

COMMUNITY: Chip Naughton, Faith Based Re-Entry Program

Summary of Finances

March offering goal: \$109,320

March offering (through 3/3/24): \$22,833 (21%)

Year to Date 4/1/23—2/29/24

Budget:

YTD offering goal: \$1,227,015

YTD expenses: \$1,241,090

Actual:

YTD offering: \$1,131,834 (under \$95,181)

YTD expenses: \$1,188,446 (under 52,644)

Care

Spiritual Care - If you'd like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus or you have a spiritual need or question, please speak to one of our elders.

Counseling - If you are interested in speaking with a trained counselor, we support Wellspring Christian Counseling (wellspringrva.com or 804-306-0504).

Financial Care - If you, or someone you know, needs financial help with basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, and utilities— or special needs like school supplies or medical expenses, we have special funds available. Please call the office or fill out the benevolence form by going to: <https://sycamorepres.com/benevolence/>

Prayer Request

Thank you for sharing your prayer request so we can be praying for you. Would you like us to keep this prayer request confidential to pastors? If you check no, that indicates to us that you are comfortable with your request being shared with the staff so we can pray for you.

- ☐ Yes, please only share with pastors.
- ☐ No, this is not confidential.

Name:

Phone Number:

Prayer Request:

New Here?

Fill out this form by tearing this out and drop it in the offering plate **or** you can scan the QR Code on the bottom of this page to fill it out online.

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

I would like to:

- ☐ Join your general email list
- ☐ Connect with your pastor
- ☐ Share a prayer request (see reverse side)
- ☐ Get connected to a community group.

Or fill this out online!



Active Elders & Deacons

Elders

- Brian Kaman
- Glenn Kurtz
- Steve O'Brien
- Dennie Pritchard
- Stephen Righter
- Jim Shefferly
- Gene Whitehead

Deacons

- Tyler Burgess
- Doug Castle
- Harry Markland
- Keith Miller
- Dale Moore
- Pat Murphy
- Scott Shefferly
- John Vick
- Paul Walshak
- Cort Van Rensselaer

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are many exciting events going on at Sycamore this month for all ages! To check out our full list of events, vist:

sycamorepres.com/events

Sycamore Presbyterian Church
510 Coalfield Road | Midlothian VA 23114 |
sycamorepres.com | 804-794-0238

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