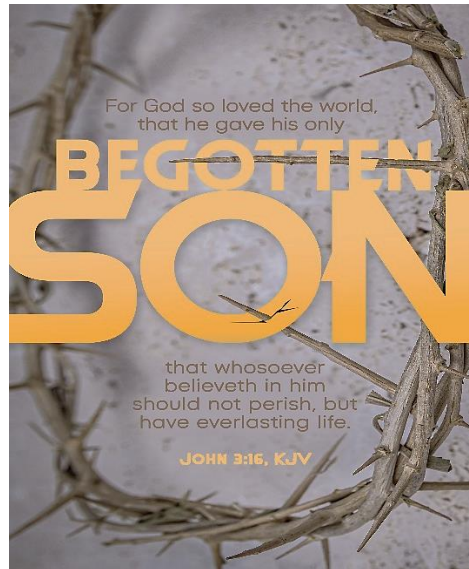


ELIZABETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Helping people meet and walk with Jesus
March 01, 2026—Second Sunday in Lent



***Please stand in body or in spirit**
CELEBRATING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE *"Lean on Me"*

PRaise TEAM

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARILYN TRAVIS

GREETING ONE ANOTHER

MARILYN TRAVIS

BIND US TOGETHER SONG

CHOIR & CHRYSTAL COTTRELL, ACCOMPANIST

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CHOIR & CHRYSTAL COTTRELL, ACCOMPANIST

"Spirit of the Living God"

* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

REV. KIM NOFEL

Leader: Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,

All: and God's truth opens our eyes.

Leader: Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ,

All: and God's love brings healing and hope.

Leader: Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,

All: and God's people are born from above.

Leader: We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.

All: Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.

OPENING PRAYER

All: God of majesty and mercy, your mystery embraces the vast reaches of the universe and yet you are present with us in the course of our daily lives. Even the tiniest spark of your wisdom illuminates the greatest complexities. With the smallest gesture of your love, you renew our hope. Deepen our sense of your holy presence this day. Assure us that your love will never let us go. We offer our praise and our prayers this day to you, Holy God, Holy One and Holy Three, with humble hearts and faith that seeks understanding.

HYMN #270

“Wonderful Words of Life”
CHOIR & CRYSTAL COTTRELL, ACCOMPANIST

***PRAISE SONGS**

“How Great Is Our God” and “At the Cross”
MIKE & PAM BANTA, MIKE & JULIE BAGGETT and BOBBIE MARCHESI

CELEBRATING GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

MARILYN TRAVIS

Leader: We need God’s help. Therefore, let us approach God’s throne of grace and honestly confess all that keeps us from right relationship.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of mystery and mercy, we confess that we often prefer simple certainty to seeking deeper understanding. We settle for what we know, ignoring our doubts and questions. Forgive us when our faith falters because what we think no longer satisfies. Open our eyes to the truth you hold out to us in Christ and give us courage to rethink what we have too often assumed about you and your love for the world.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God for love that gives us all a new start this very day! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

REV. KIM NOFEL

Leader: Our lives are blessed with the goodness that comes from God. Let us trust that goodness to sustain us and offer God our gifts with glad hearts to share with the world in need.

“How Beautiful”

CHOIR

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. Amen”**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Generous God, we offer our gifts to you in gratitude for all that we have received in Christ and in creation. Bless our gifts and our lives, so that we can share in the building up of your kingdom in the world you love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Leader: God of Wisdom, we turn to Scripture to listen and learn. Send your Holy Spirit to help us listen carefully so that we hear what we have not heard before and learn to follow Christ with deeper understanding and renewed commitment. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 (from NIV)

MARILYN TRAVIS

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

New Testament Reading: John 3:1-17 (from NIV)

REV. KIM NOFEL

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” ⁹ “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰ “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹ Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹² I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Walking with Jesus: Asking Questions”

REV. KIM NOFEL

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

REV. KIM NOFEL

Following each Joy we say, **“Thanks be to You, O God.”**

Following each Concern we say, **“Hear our prayer, O Lord.”**

PASTORAL PRAYER/GREAT THANKSGIVING

REV. KIM NOFEL

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.

CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER

REV. KIM NOFEL

*SUNG BENEDICTION

EVERYONE

“Go Now in Peace”

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

REV. KIM NOFEL

POSTLUDE

CHRYSTAL COTTRELL

EPC FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2026

Tithes/Offering/Other Income	\$ 17,272.71
Expenses	\$ 24,880.90
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (7,608.19)

YEAR TO DATE 2026

Tithes/Offering/Other Income	\$ 17,272.71
Expenses	\$ 24,880.90
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (7,608.19)
Avg Monthly Income	\$17,272.71
Total Offerings 2/22/2026	\$ 677.73