

# encounters on the road to the cross

February 22, 2026

## GATHER...TO WORSHIP AND PRAISE

Sharing of the Peace and Welcome

Invitation to Worship

Prelude

*O God, Be Merciful*  
Melvin Hale, organ

\*Call to Worship

Leader: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Congregation:** Let those who know they are redeemed celebrate it! Those who have been reclaimed from deep trouble!

Leader: Though we were as good as dead, God made us alive with the grace of Christ through whom we are rescued and healed.

**Congregation:** O give thanks to God for such unwavering love, for such wonderful deeds for the children of earth.

\*Hymn #169

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* ST. FLAVIAN

\*Invocation

Bobby Rayburn

## GATHER...TO WELCOME THE CHILDREN

*The children are invited forward for the children's sermon.*

Hymn #603

*Jesus Loves Me* CHINA

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of Your fingers; The moon and stars suspended in space. Oh, what is man, that You are mindful of him? You have given man a crown of glory and honor, and have made him a little lower than the angels. You have put him in charge of all creation: The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea. But what is man, Oh, what is man that You are mindful of him. O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of Your name transcends the earth and fills the heavens. O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly, and so would we. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Children's Sermon

Bobby Rayburn

Choral Praise

*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* Tom Fettke

## GATHER...TO OFFER OUR GIFTS WITH THANKSGIVING

Offertory Prayer

*Lamb of God*  
Melvin Hale, organ

Offertory

Jack Nunneley

arr. Twila Paris

\*Response Doxology #375

*Give Thanks to God*

EARTH AND ALL STARS

*Give thanks to God, He is Creator, sing to the Lord, O sing a new song!*

*He is our Lord and our Redeemer, sing to the Lord, O sing a new song!*

*Worship the Lord and stand amazed; worship the Lord with endless praise.*

## GATHER...TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

Scripture

John 3:13-21

Dr. Leonard Ezell

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "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. "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Reflection #171

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

Sermon

*Salvation for the Informed*

Dr. Ezell

## DEPART...TO SERVE

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

REDHEAD

\*Hymn of Response #180

\*Announcements

\*Benediction Hymn #518 *May the Grace of Our Lord Jesus*  
**May the grace of our Lord Jesus, and the blessed love of God**  
**The communion of the Spirit, richly, bless and keep you all.**

\*Postlude

*Psalm XX*  
Melvin Hale, organ

Benedetto Marcello

\*The congregation is invited to stand.

# ministry opportunities

## Sunday, February 22

- 8:30 A Common Grounds Café Opens
- 9:15 A Sunday School
- 10:30 A Worship Service
- 4:00 P Belles et Beaux
- 5:00 P Youth

## Tuesday, February 24

- 9:30 A Yoga
- 10:00 A Quilting

## Wednesday, February 25

- 10:00 A God Said What? New session begins
- 10:15 A OMG Breakfast at Le Madeleine's
- 6:30 P Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, February 26

- 10:00 A God Said What?

## Friday, February 27

- 9:30 A Yoga

## Sunday, March 1

- 8:30 A Common Grounds Café Opens
- 9:15 A Sunday School
- 10:30 A Worship Service
- 3:30 P Church Council Meeting, Common Grounds Cafe
- 5:00 P Youth

To give online with tithe.ly



### STAFF

Dr. Leonard Ezell, *Senior Pastor*  
Bobby Rayburn, *Associate Pastor of Young Families*  
Dr. Alissa Rowe, *Director of Music and Worship*  
Felicia Mullen, *Business Manager*  
Katie Gilley, *Administrative Assistant*  
Melvin Hale, *Organist*

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**EMBRACE LOVE. EMBRACE GRACE.  
EMBRACE THE WORLD.**

**Affinity Groups...** We have started to get groups for Affinity Groups. So far We have a Cooking with Bobby, our Average Church Band (David Mullen), cyber security (Jeff Patton), basic sign language (Janelle Teekel), genealogy (Jim Findley), and embroidery (Katie Gilley). If any of these interest you, sign up on sheets outside the sanctuary or in the church office.

**Southeast Ministries...** Our neighborhood food bank appreciates gifts of basic hygiene items, including bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant.

**Bible Studies...** *"God Said What?!"*  
*Wrestling with Cruelty, Violence, and Vengeance in the Old Testament"*

An honest approach to negative images of God.  
Thursdays 10-11 AM in Church Conference Room  
**This Bible study is starting a second session on Wednesdays at 10 AM in Common Grounds Cafe**

**OMG Breakfast...** Last Wednesdays of the Month at 10:15 AM at La Madeleine's on Jefferson. Gathering for men of the church.

**Church Council Meeting...** March 1, 3:30 P for committee chairpeople and church staff.

**LLL Outing...** Thursday, March 19. LLL going to St. Francisville to eat at THE FRANCIS. Leaving church at 11a.m. Lunch on your own. Sign up to ensure we have sufficient transportation. If you are willing to drive, let office know.

