

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# Witness at the Cross



*The Beloved Disciple*

MARCH 15, 2026

4201 FAIRFAX DRIVE, SUITE 1, ARLINGTON, VA 22203

# We Gather

Prelude Paraphrase on "Ah, Holy Jesus"

Welcome  
(Scan the QR code for digital connection card)



\*Song "Come Now to Worship the Lord"

***Come now to worship the Lord,  
let us bow before Him.  
Come now to hear God's word,  
to praise Him and adore Him.  
all who gather in this place have  
come in faith to seek God's grace.  
Come now to worship the Lord  
and praise His holy name.***

\*Call to Worship

Leader: From the crowds and the curious, to the faithful  
who stayed,

**People: We come to witness the cross.**

Leader: From our comfortable distance, to the place where  
love was displayed,

**People: We come to witness the cross.**

Leader: We come with questions and doubts, with hope and  
with fear,

**People: We come to witness the cross.**

Leader: For at the cross, we find God drawing near.

**People: We come to witness the cross and the love that  
meets us here.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

\*Song "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" TFWS #2112

Prayers of the People

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People: Hear our prayer.**

## We Hear

Anthem "There Is a Green Hill Far Away" arr. Joseph M. Martin

Children's Sermon

Prayer of Illumination "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning"  
TFWS #2004, v.1

Scripture John 19:25-27 (Common English Bible)

*Jesus' mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time on, this disciple took her into his home.*

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "The Beloved Disciple"

# We Respond

## Sermon Reflection Questions

1. What spiritual practices help you stand closer to the cross and gain clarity and focus on what Jesus wants you to see?
2. What does “family” mean to you after hearing John 19:25-27? How does that shape your commitments?
3. Who is the person standing at the cross with you whom Jesus is calling you to love like family? What action can you take this week to love them well?

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

## Prayer Station:

Step 1: Write a name on a leaf:

Orange: "Spiritual parents who have shaped me."

Yellow: "Siblings in Christ who walk with me."

Green: "Those I'm called to welcome into God's family."

Step 2: Choose one person from your leaves and commit to caring for that person in a specific way this week.

"This week I will care for \_\_\_\_\_, a member of my family through Christ, by:

- Calling them
- Visiting them
- Praying daily for them
- Inviting them to \_\_\_\_\_
- Caring for them by \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

**Jesus, you entrusted your mother to your friend and created a new family. Show me who you're giving me to love. Give me your grace to welcome them into my life as a part of your family. Amen.**

## Psalm 22 adapted by Greg Capaldini

Verse 3 (Ps 22: 12-18)

The growling mouths of monsters

Have circled, hemmed me in.

My mouth is like a desert,

My bones show through my skin.

My failing strength has shattered,

Like pots thrown to the ground.

They parcel out my clothing;

My head with thorns is crowned.

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\*Giving our gifts to God and passing the peace



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To give cash or check please put your donation in the basket in the front of the sanctuary next to the baptismal font.

Prayer of Dedication

**We Go**

Announcements

\*Song "Ah, Holy Jesus" UMH #289

\*Benediction

\*Sung Benediction "Shalom to You" UMH #666

Postlude Trio on "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

\*Please stand in body or spirit.

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Liturgist	Alisa Thomas
Reader of the Word	Pat Barham
Choral Conductor	Greg Capaldini
Pianist	Greg Capaldini
Preacher	Rev. Sarah Harrison-McQueen

### **Assistive Listening Available**

You can now connect your Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids directly to our sound system using the *ListenWIFI* app on your smartphone. Look for laminated signs at the sanctuary entrances for simple setup instructions. Need help? Just ask a greeter or staff member—we're happy to assist!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Pi Day Celebration – March 15**

Please join us after worship today as we celebrate Pi Day! We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship and, of course, pie. Come enjoy great conversation, meet new friends, and catch up with others!

### **Breaking Down Walls: A Racial Justice Webinar**

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Men and United Women in Faith invite you to Breaking Down Walls, a webinar on Tuesday, March 17, from 7:00–8:30 PM on Zoom. This panel conversation will explore a Christian response to the dismantling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and equip United Methodists to live out our mission of unity in diversity. Scan the QR code for the full flyer and registration details.



## **Special Church Conference – Parsonage Project**

Since last fall, the Parsonage Study Committee has been diligently evaluating options to repair or replace our parsonage. On February 22, the Leadership Board voted on their recommendation, allowing us to move to Phase Two of the project.

A special Church Conference will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 22, at 11:45 a.m. The congregation will elect a building committee to serve for Phase Two and approve funds for them to begin their work. All are welcome to attend; however, only members of Central UMC are eligible to vote.

## **An Invitation to a Virtual Bible Study from Carroll Cobb**

The Rowdy, Motley Bible Study crew, led by Carroll Ellis Cobb, has begun a study of the book of Ezra and welcomes anyone who would like to join. The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays and offers two separate sessions, so you can choose whichever works best for you: one at 2:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm. This study is open to everyone, young and not-so-young, single and married, experienced in the Bible or completely new to Bible study, all from the comfort of your home.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office at [office@cumcballston.org](mailto:office@cumcballston.org) or 703 527-8844. We would love to have you join us!

## **Men's Group – Fellowship & Games**

All men of Central are invited to our monthly Men's Group gathering on Sunday, March 29, from 3:00–5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy board and card games, laughs, and great fellowship. Bring yourself, a friend, and feel free to bring a snack to share. These gatherings are a wonderful way to build friendships and encourage one another as we live out our faith in daily life.

\*Please stand in body or spirit.