

My soul is satisfied

As a momma of toddlers, I often experienced the clinging arms of a small child wrapped around my leg. It happened in good times, with laughter; scary times, with tears; when feeling shy or needing the assurance of familiarity; or simply resting in the comfort of my presence. Those little arms held tightly, fiercely, with all their might—the purpose clear: I am staying attached to momma.

I want to be like that with God. To be filled with longing and to know true gut thirst for the living water that is only God's to give. I want to affirm with my whole being that God is the only true source of my contentment and satisfaction.

Psalm 63 is not written about God; it is spoken directly to God. The words are not "platitudes of gratitude" for when things are going great and one feels an obligation to remember God. Instead, these words, spoken when times were tough for David, are a confession of affirmation recognizing his all-consuming need for God, and then declaring God's faithfulness in filling that need with abundance.

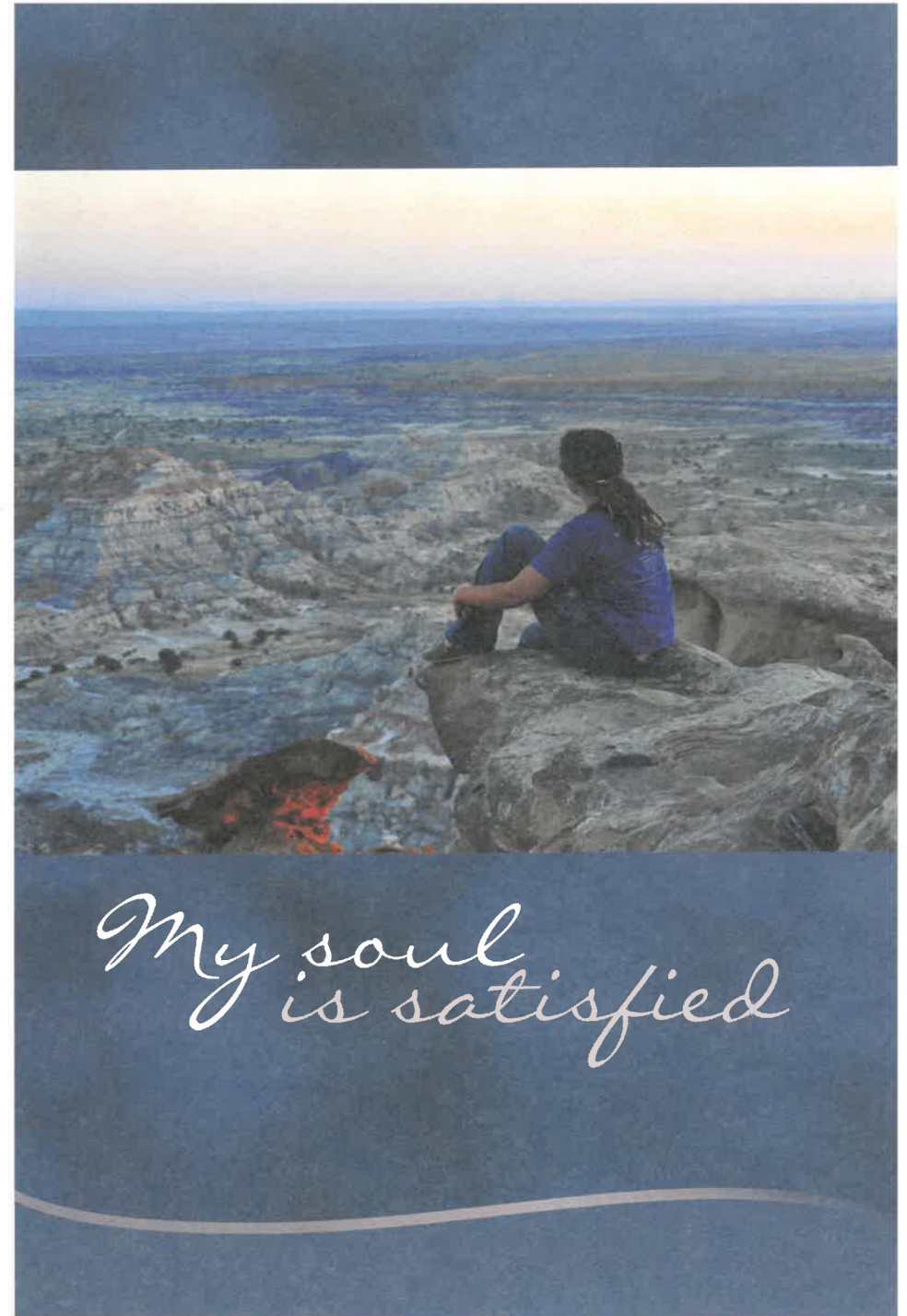
I want my lips to be joyful and my hands to rise in heartfelt praise to the One whose lovingkindness I know is better than life itself. Whether in good times or scary times, when needing assurance and comfort or simply a rest from the weariness of my days, I want to cry out like the psalmist:

O God, You. Are. My. God!
My soul longs for you . . . desires you . . . thirsts for you.
For You, o God alone, can satisfy the visceral need of my soul.
From the shadow of your wings, tucked in and clinging tightly
with all my might,
I will praise You and rejoice.

—Pam Warner Franklin
Modesto, California

"My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips"
(Psalm 63:5, *NRSVue*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Isaiah 55:1-9;
Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

March 23, 2025, Third Sunday of Lent. Photo © Donna Parcell. Used by permission.
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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

March 23, 2025

Lent 3

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE DID YOU SEE GOD LAST WEEK?

PRELUDE "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" (Wood)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Diana Shepherd, Worship Leader

One: For everything there is a season,

All: And a time for every matter under heaven:

One: A time to be born,

All: And a time to die;

One: A time to keep,

All: And a time to give away.

One: This is the season for repentance,

All: For tuning away from aimlessness and sin;

One: For re-turning our lives to God,

All: As joyful disciples of Christ.

***HYMN #28** "Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit"

[Verse 1]

*Breathe upon us, Holy Spirit, as adoringly we bow at these altars,
pure and sacred, paying thee our solemn vow.*

*All our feeble graces quicken with the streams of thy sweet grace,
and make glorious with thy presence this thy holy dwelling place.*

[Verse 2]

Thou art pure and thou art holy; Jesus, make us more like thee.

Thou art meek and thou art lowly; so may we thy children be.

Shed abroad thy love within us, fill our souls with light divine.

Holy Spirit, seal, anoint us, and our earthliness refine.

[Verse 3]

Now receive us, as repentant to thy heart of love we fly.

Pardon all our sin and folly, lead us to they-self on high.

Oh, these hearts need thy refining, and the cleansing of thy blood!

Consecrate and make us holy, through redemption's crimson flood.

[Verse 4]

*Here shall love, like a sacred incense, upward mount to thy great throne,
from cleansed heart and conscience of a people all thine own.
Humble are the gifts we bring thee, and upon thine altar lay,
yet be gracious to thy children as they worship thee today.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

As we progress through Lent, our Father, enable us to deepen our spiritual lives. Teach us to pray rightly that we may know the blessing of being rooted and grounded in your Spirit. Focus our minds upon Christ, for it is in him that we see the pattern we are to follow. Thus, it is in his name we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy, or invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose? God offers us a way of life that satisfies. What we cannot buy, God freely gives us. Our offerings are one way of expressing our thanks.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on Facebook Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage.

Offertory "God's Great Grace" (Curtis)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

HYMN #516

"Just as I am, without one plea"

[Verse 1]

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

[Verse 2]

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of ev'ry blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

[Verse 3]

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

[Verse 4]

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

[Verse 5]

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

[Verse 6]

Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken ev'ry barrier down. Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING ANTHEM

"What Wondrous Love"

(Arr. Allen)

Temple Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:1-9

NT 76

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener,

'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

MESSAGE

"Should We Wait?"

Pastor Twyla Rowe

*HYMN #491

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling"

[Verse 1]

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See on the portal He's watching and waiting, watching for you and for me.*

[Refrain]

*Come home, Come home! You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home.*

[Verse 2]

*Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?*

[Refrain]

*Come home, Come home! You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home.*

[Verse 3]

*O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.*

[Refrain]

*Come home, Come home! You who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home.*

*BENEDICTION

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

*POSTLUDE

"A Lenten Meditation"

(Rasley)

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*\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.*

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Third Sunday
in
Lent

Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and
Rejoice in your participation with us in
worship. It is our prayer that you will
experience the presence of God's Spirit and
that it will equip you for service and ministry
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and
Cluster Leaders are available after worship
and during the week to listen and assist you in
your Christian pilgrimage.*

THE ANNOUNCER **March 23, 2025**

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take a Moment" Let this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning Sunday, March 23 - Holy Savior, with each step I make through this Lenten season, I am reminded of your journey to the cross. It brings feelings of sadness and shame because I know your death on the cross was the price paid for all of humanity's sin...which, of course, includes me. I admit that I feel impatient. I want this season to pass quickly and get on to the Easter celebration. Yet...I know I must wait...and in the waiting, I will seek you with a hunger to draw closer to you. As I wait, I will listen to you as you speak to my heart; and I will seek to be obedient to what you want me to do. Send your Spirit to nudge me on so that in my waiting I will be very active. The waiting will definitely be worthwhile. Easter is coming! Hallelujah! The celebration will be great! Amen.

Our thanks to Diana Shepherd for being our worship leader today and to the Temple Choir for our morning anthem.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

The flowers on the altar this morning, are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our Dad, Harold Hood, given by Scott and Judy Hood.

The Service & Outreach Team would like to thank Sandy Clipp for organizing and working during our REACH week. We would also like to thank all of our members and friends who helped with the many different tasks involved. We cannot tell you how much you are appreciated. Also, we thank those of you who donated essential items and money. This outreach is so important and you show our homeless how much you care about them.

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205).** (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

The Lenten devotional, "Take Up Your Cross" by Tim Harvey is available this morning. Copies can be found on the credenza in the west entrance of the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall. The devotional is provided by the Worship Ministry Team. If you're a Cluster Leader, please make sure everyone in your cluster gets a devotional.

Lenten Services will be held on March 26th; April 2nd & 9th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speakers will be Ella Amaya (26th), Suzie Wolfe (2nd), and Bea Van Norden (9th).

A sign up sheet has been placed in the fellowship hall and in the west entrance for anyone wanting to make some delicious cookies for our Lenten service. Thank you in advance.
- Spiritual Nurture Team

MAD Disaster Response Dinner—If you think you're going to be hungry at dinnertime Saturday, April 5, have I got an offer for you!! That night, just down the road at the Bush Creek COB, there's a dinner featuring fried shrimp, baked ziti, ham loaf, plus "Sara's Egg and Lettuce Salad" and a whole bunch of veggies and desserts -- all you care to eat and ALL to benefit our own Brethren Disaster Ministries!!! Just see Arn after service today or next Sunday for tickets. Already, 16 HCOB folks are going and there's room for another 8 or 10, with ride-sharing or drive yourself. Don't just think of your stomach -- think of our own big guy Daryl Long, who right this minute, as we worship here Sunday, is on his way home with a gang of other local COB volunteers, driving up from Neon, Ky., in that state's poorest county, where they've been building homes for flood victims -- the very work and other projects like it that this dinner will support!! You can thank Daryl and his wife, Deb, by coming to dinner Saturday, April 5, with them and all us other hungry and supportive HCOBers!!!

Love Feast and Good Friday. You are invited to attend the following worship events as a time for personal reflection:

- *April 17th (Maundy Thursday) at 7:00 PM – Love feast and Communion in the Fellowship Hall.
- *April 18th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary- Good Friday service.
- *Both Love Feast and Good Friday Services will be on Facebook.

The Sunday School Orchestra will be performing in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 27th at 9:00 am, Sunday School will follow at the normal scheduled time. There will be a combined service at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.

The Novel Bunch Presents... Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen by Susan Gregg Gilmore. Saturday, May 17th from 10:00 AM—12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served. If you would like to attend, please see the insert in the latest Tidings or you can find copies of the sign up sheet on the credenza in the wing of the sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall.

The Service & Outreach Team asks that you save the dates for the following two important events. Community Picnic: Saturday, 06/07/25 and the Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/18/25. We need your help with these events.

Deadline for bulletins and newsletters. Announcements for the weekly bulletin need to be given to the administrative assistant before noon on Wednesday. Announcements for the monthly newsletters need to be given to the administrative assistant before the 15th of each month. Let's help her out by meeting deadlines, and also by not asking for special exceptions. Announcements should continue to be emailed to secretaryhcob@gmail.com. Thank you!



Our spring session of GriefShare has begun and will continue each Monday through May 12, from 6:30 – 8:30 in the Mullendore Room. You may join at any time during the

13 weeks, but we ask that you commit to attending at least 3 consecutive weeks. Cost is free, but we gladly will accept a \$10 donation toward materials.

The grief journey after losing a loved one is very painful, difficult, and lonely. Since everyone grieves differently, there is no magic endpoint to the grieving process. Fortunately, HCOB offers GriefShare, an international, faith-based 13-week seminar offering support after the death of a loved one, no matter how recent. The GriefShare ministry provides a safe, welcoming space where people understand the heavy emotions of grief. As a participant, you will receive valuable tools to help you navigate your personal path, as well as gain support from others also on their grief journeys. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, please share this information with them and consider attending. We encourage you to bring a family member or friend so they can better understand your loss and become a greater support for you.

Register at www.griefshare.org. If you have any questions about the program, see Pastor Twyla or Debbie Nycum.

CALENDAR

Sunday, March 23

Junior Church/Third Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, March 24

Church office closed
6:30 pm GriefShare/Mullendore Room
6:30 pm Deacon Meeting/Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 25

6:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting/Room 302
7:00 pm Hag. Choral Arts/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 26

Administrative Assistant Work from home
12:00 pm Deadline for bulletin announcement submissions
12:30 pm Hag. Choral Arts Women's Ensemble/Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Lenten Service/Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 27

5:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal/Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm Brethren Bells/Choir Room
7:30 pm Temple Choir/Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 28

8:00 am Bulletin Prep Time/Church office
1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, March 29

Pastor Twyla's day off

Sunday, March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent
8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall
9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms
10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

You may mail your offering to
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown MD 21740
OR
you can make a secure offering
donation on our website using
Breeze www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Hygiene Kits Are Needed

The Service and Outreach Ministry Team and Sue Vanderveer are asking for supplies for Hygiene Kits. Kits are put together and delivered to Church World Service which will then send them to areas of need in the United States and other parts of the world.

Items needed are:

Hygiene Kits – you will need:

- ◆ One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- ◆ One washcloth
- ◆ One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs or picks, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable)
- ◆ One nail clipper removed from the package
- ◆ Ten standard size Band-Aids®

We have a supply of soap and toothbrushes, we are not in need of those things this year.

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Tubes of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added by others to the Hygiene Kit just prior to shipment. Items may be placed in the collection container in the West Entrance. Contact Sue Vanderveer if you have questions.

Hygiene Kit value: \$15
Processing/Shipping Cost: \$2 per Kit
Thank you!

Watch for a collection box in the west entrance, or contact Sue Vanderveer if you want to donate items.



The Christian Education Ministry Team is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for ALL children on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 2 PM at Linden Hall Farm (Brian and Nicole Forsythe's farm) located at 10226 Downsville Pike, Hagerstown MD.

We are in need of:

- Volunteers to fill eggs (see the tote in the west entrance)
- Volunteers to help the day of the hunt. We'll need folks to help hide the eggs, give out snacks and drinks and help with a craft.

We are also asking for donations of:

- Bottled water (small, please)
- Individual sized bags of various snacks
- Cash contributions that will be used to purchase special prizes.

While we can't provide a number of children who will attend, we do not anticipate a large number, perhaps 20 or so.

All children are encouraged to bring a friend. (Grandparents, your grandchildren are also welcome!)

Please have all donations brought to the church by Friday, April 10th.

If you'd like to help or have any questions, please see any member of the CEMT; Kay Ogilvie, Tina Mills, Tracie Poteet, Debbie Long, or Brenda Shane.

Thank you for helping us offer the children an afternoon of fun!!

