

“I AM THIRSTY”

SELF-DEPRIVATION ISN'T REQUIRED TO COMMUNE WITH GOD.



“I Thirst”: The Vinegar Given to Jesus (“J’ai soif.” Le vinaigre donné à Jésus) by James Tissot

**LITTLE
RIVER** 
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 17, 2024

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

8410 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003-3710

(703) 978-3060 ~ office@lrucc.org

www.lrucc.org

WELCOME!

We are glad you're worshipping with us today! Since our founding in the 1950s, we at Little River United Church of Christ (UCC) have been called by God to celebrate diversity, independent thought, and faithful action. This call led us to become racially integrated in the segregated Virginia of the 1950s, and in 2001 to become an open and affirming congregation that celebrates LGBTQ+ folks, including full access to the rites of ordination and marriage. We invite you to become part of this community, building on our heritage of proclaiming God's radically inclusive love to our congregation, neighborhood, and world. We'd love to have you join us in these sacred tasks!

Please take a moment to fill out the red friendship notebook at the end of each pew, so that our pastor might offer a word of welcome.

WE'RE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

We are excited to welcome members, friends, and visitors for worship both in person and online (hybrid services). Masks are optional for those attending worship in person. All worship services are recorded and uploaded to YouTube for on-demand viewing. Those attending worship in-person (adults and children) may be seen attending and participating during the worship service.

LET THE CHILDREN COME!

Little River's nursery welcomes infants through 4 year olds on Sunday mornings (9:30 A.M.–12 P.M.) with our devoted child care providers, Yris and Mia. During 10 A.M. Sunday worship, Sunday School is offered for 5 year olds through 12th grade. The Youth Group meets on select Sundays for 6th–12th grades. Please check with an usher for the location of classes.

STAY IN TOUCH

Little River UCC produces a weekly e-newsletter, *Current Tidings*, and periodically sends out *Alerts* (emails with significant, time-sensitive information). All submissions for the weekly bulletin and e-newsletter should be submitted to the office by **Wednesdays at noon**. We also send out a monthly print newsletter, *Current Reflections*. To receive any of these communications, please send an email to currents@lrucc.org or call the church office at 703-978-3060 to give us your contact information.

We are also online! We have a Facebook page (Facebook.com/LittleRiverUnitedChurchOfChrist) and an Instagram account (Instagram.com/littleriverucc/) where we post photos of recent events, announcements of upcoming programs, and news from the wider UCC. We also have a Facebook private group (Facebook.com/groups/80950098659) for members and friends, where we can share prayer concerns and thanksgivings, post and discuss church events, and post other items of interest to Little River community members.

STAFF AND PARTNERS

The Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe, Senior Minister
Craig Stapert, Director of Music and Communications
Ashton Streavig, Children and Youth Choir Director
Kathy Heyman, Office Administrator
Chris DiMascio, Building and Grounds Manager
Jay Shackley, Communications Assistant
Yris Saenz, Child Care Provider
Mia Morgan, Church School Teacher Assistant
The Rev. Dr. Verne Arens, Pastor Emeritus

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The Rev. Hubert S. Beckwith, Founding Pastor

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

PRELUDE

A Celtic Set for Lent
by Thomas Keesecker

Craig Stapert, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrea Carpenter

One: Sometimes we are a dry bones people,
a people without hope.

**All: God raises us from living graves
and fills us with the Spirit.**

One: Sometimes we are cut off from one another,
and our sources of joy are dried up.

**All: God makes a home for us with one another
where we live with celebration.**

One: Sometimes we come to worship aimless and fearful.

All: God gives hope, strange dreams, the promise of life.

* HYMN 253

Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

PLEADING SAVIOR

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

INVOCATION

Andrea Carpenter

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

If you are worshipping with us online, please type your words of peace in the chat box.

If you are worshipping in person, please greet one another as you feel most comfortable.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

O God, Beyond All Praising
by Michael Perry & Gustav Holst, arr. Richard Proulx

Sanctuary Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1–6

Andrea Carpenter

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 19:28–29

Andrea Carpenter

* HYMN

Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us

BEACH SPRING

Christ, your words of love confound us,
even as we give you praise,
for the lessons that you teach us seem
so far from this world's ways.
How can we love those who hate us?
How can we love enemies?
What of people who abuse us?
How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action,
not a feeling that uplifts.
In each daily situation,
love's the greatest of all gifts.
It's the wiser, stronger person
who will break the chain of hate.
Love can usher in redemption;
love can make a people great.

Faced with those who seek to hurt us,
make us confident and free:
you don't call us to be helpless
but to stand with dignity.
God, when others are demanding,
may we know they matter more than
our money or possessions.
May we share, not keeping score.

If we love just those who love us,
where's the giving? Where's the grace?
Even sinners try to do this;
they have friends that they embrace.
May we do, God, unto others
as we'd have them also do.
You have shown us: Love is action.
May we love, and make things new.

Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
This hymn includes insights from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Loving Your Enemies"
sermon delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, November 17, 1957.

CALL TO OFFERING

Andrea Carpenter

An usher will be near the back of the sanctuary to receive your gifts at the end of the service. To give online, the QR code in your bulletin will direct you to the donation webpage, or you may visit www.lrucc.org. You may also mail a check to the church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Andrea Carpenter

* DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THANKSGIVINGS & CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

Those worshipping in person may raise a hand and a microphone will be brought to you. You may also write your request on a card in the pew and place it in the offering plate as you leave. Those on Zoom may type a prayer request in the chat box to be read in the service on your behalf; please include your name with the prayer request. If you do not wish to share your prayer concern with the congregation, you may email Pastor Shelli at Shelli@lrucc.org.

Please end your time of sharing by saying, "This is my prayer."
We will respond by saying, "This is our prayer."

PASTORAL PRAYER & JESUS' PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

**Loving God, through the Spirit's revelation,
may Your true nature be honored everywhere.
May Your reign of love come.
May the desire of Your heart for the world be done,
in us, by us, and through us in the power of the Spirit.
Give us the bread we need for each day.
Forgive us.
Enable us to forgive others.
Keep us from all anxiety and fear.
For You reign in the power that comes from love, which is Your glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

* HYMN 236

Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

ABERYSTWYTH

(SEE BACK OF BULLETIN FOR MUSIC)

* BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Shelli M. Poe

POSTLUDE

Valet will ich dir geben
by J. S. Bach

Craig Stapert, organ

Portions of the liturgy are adapted from Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi, eds., *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship, Updated* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012); *The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd ed.* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013); Annabel Shilson-Thomas, “Compassionate God,” *Let Justice Roll Down*, ed. Geoffrey Duncan (Pilgrim, 2003). Passages from Friedrich Schleiermacher’s sermon are found in *Jesus’ Life in Dying: Friedrich Schleiermacher’s Pre-Easter Reflections to the Community of the Redeemer*, trans. Iain G. Nicol and Allen G. Jorgenson (Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2020). Music used with permission, reprinted and streamed under Onelicense A-715105.

TODAY

Childcare is available from 9:30 A.M. to 12 P.M. every Sunday! Bring your children of any age to the nursery, and Yris and Mia will care for them while you prepare for and participate in worship. At coffee hour, Yris and Mia staff our Kids’ Table, where children of all ages can eat together and find table activities to enjoy. If some kids want to go outside on the playground, Yris or Mia will go with them to supervise. If you’re on your way to another church activity, just sign your children in with Yris and Mia by 11:30 A.M. Depending on the needs of the children present, they’ll stay in the social hall, play outside, or go to the nursery. Pick up your children by 12 P.M., or let us know at least a week ahead of time that you’ll need extended child care by emailing office@lrucc.org.

Fair Trade Sale

All your favorite Fair Trade items will be on sale today before and after the worship service. Look for the Fair Trade Sale table outside the social hall. Coffee, olive oil will be available for purchase and, of course, the delicious chocolate bars—just in time for those Easter baskets!

Newcomers Welcome Opportunities

Are you new to Little River and looking for ways to connect? We want to get to know you and connect you with our community. Newcomers are welcome to join us for coffee hour after worship. Look for the “Welcome Table,” where you can get to know us a bit better.

LITTLE RIVER CHANGES LIVES!



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries of Little River. To use the QR Code to the left, open your phone camera and direct it toward the QR Code. Wait for a link to pop up, and then tap the link. It will take you directly to the Little River donation webpage. Thank you for your support!

THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Fauré *Requiem*

Sunday, March 24, 10 A.M.

Mark your calendars for worship on Palm/Passion Sunday! After the palm procession, the Sanctuary Choir with guest musicians will present the Fauré *Requiem* as part of our Lenten journey. Gabriel Urbain Fauré (1845–1924) was a French composer, organist, pianist, and teacher. He composed the *Requiem in D minor*, Op. 48, in the late 1880s and revised it in the 1890s, finishing it in 1900. It's a favorite of the choir, and the beautiful music is certain to meet you wherever you are as we enter Holy Week.

Lenten Soup Luncheon and Discussion

Sunday, March 24, 11:15 A.M.

We'll gather immediately after Sunday worship service on March 24 for the final Lenten Lunch, where we will reflect in small groups at tables in the social hall or online on the themes we've considered in worship. Pastor Shelli will provide discussion questions for each table. We'll open the time with prayer and each group can decide for themselves when they're finished, ending the time with a prayer provided. This will be a way to link your experiences with the ideas that will be introduced in worship, build relationships with those who are at your table, and deepen your Lenten experience. *If you're willing to bring soup or bread, please sign up here: bit.ly/LR-LentLunch2024.*

LRUCC Spring Outdoor Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 6

Save the date for the LRUCC's Spring Outdoor Cleanup Day on your calendar for Saturday, April 6. To accommodate spring sports schedules we will have morning and afternoon sessions. With nine acres of woods, there are plenty of tasks for volunteers from age three and up. Watch for more details after the spring break. The Cub Scout Pack and Troop will also be helping with the Clean Up Day.

Film Screening "Calls from Home"

Saturday, April 13, 5 P.M.

Please join us here at Little River on Saturday, April 13, at 5 P.M. for a screening of a short film highlighting a longstanding radio program that enables family members of men incarcerated in SW Virginia, very far from home, to broadcast messages of support to their loved ones in the prison. "Calls from Home" shines a light on the impact of family separation, the abolition of parole in Virginia—coupled with the imposition of very long sentences—and other harsh prison conditions that undermine rehabilitation.

After viewing the film, we'll enjoy a potluck supper and discussion with the filmmaker, **Sylvia Ryerson, who was a DJ for the radio show, and Michelle Griffin, wife of William Griffin, whose story is presented in the film.** Please plan to join us for this unique opportunity.

Digging Deep:**Sunday, April 14, 3–5 P.M.****How Our Moral Foundations Shape Our Views**

Gather at Little River for a presentation by David Asher Tassell, adjunct faculty, Religious Studies, George Mason University and sponsored by Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD). “My neighbor and I just don’t see eye to eye. We passionately disagree on the biggest issues of our day. How can we possibly have a civil conversation?” David Tassell will introduce a framework for discovering shared values and understanding the factors that drive conflicting views. Join us in actively listening to one another through small group discussions as we explore the core values that shape our own and others’ perspectives on contentious issues. Register by April 7 at www.interfaithfairfax.org/dialogues. For more information, email interfaithcd@gmail.com.

African American Museum Tour**Sunday, April 28**

Our Antiracism Ministry is thrilled to offer our church community a tour of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, led by our antiracism consultant, Pastor Darryl! Moch. The tour will be on the afternoon of Sunday, April 28. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. We have 25 passes for this unique experience, beginning at 1:45pm. Please use Sign-Up Genius to RSVP: bit.ly/LR-AfricanAmericanMuseum. More information will follow for those who are participating.

ONGOING PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES**Yoga at LRUCC****Rescheduled Date: Saturday, March 23, 8:30 A.M.**

Yoga class led by Abigail Freeman has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 23, at 8:30 A.M. The class is usually offered every first and third Saturday. Abigail is experienced in teaching many forms of yoga, including Prenatal Yoga, Mommy and Me, chair yoga, and everything in between. This is a time for fun and movement for congregants and friends of all ages!

Meditation Group Meeting**Sundays, 9 A.M.**

The Little River Meditation Group meets every Sunday in Room 8 and via Zoom. All are welcome. Meetings end at 9:45 A.M. so participants can make it to worship. Questions? Contact Carolyn Yocom. Zoom: bit.ly/LR-Meditation.

Monday Morning Religious Studies**Mondays, 10 A.M.**

The class is viewing and discussing the 24-lecture video series *Thinking about Religion and Violence*. This is a hybrid class (in-person and online). For more information, please contact LR member Joanne Zellers. Please join us in Room 8 or on Zoom: bit.ly/LR-ReligiousStudy.

UPCOMING TUESDAY EVENING DISCUSSION

Queer Theology

Tuesdays, 7:30 P.M.

Starting Tuesday, April 9, Pastor Shelli will lead discussions around the theme of Queer Theology. The field is new and burgeoning. It has nothing to do with arguments from scripture or tradition about whether same sex relationships are legitimate or sacred. They are! The field of queer theology is about breaking binaries, deconstructing established categories of thought, and waking us up to new possibilities. Join us on Zoom for an introduction to this important field of theology.

Frederick Douglass Historic Site Tour

Saturday, May 11

Are you interested in a visit to the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site? Frederick Douglass spent his life fighting for justice and equality. Born into slavery in 1818, he escaped as a young man and became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement. People everywhere still find inspiration today in his tireless struggle, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity. The Women's Ministry Team and Antiracism Ministry is coordinating a group tour at the Frederick Douglass Historic site on Saturday, May 11 (tour begins at 10:45 A.M.). Please use the Sign Up Genius link if you are interested in taking the group tour or helping with carpools. We need an idea of how many people are interested in taking the tour, so signing up is not a commitment to attend but only for your interest and availability to drive/carpool: bit.ly/LR-DouglassTour.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Prison Pen Pal Opportunity

LRUCC has received a request from a man in prison in Missouri who learned that we have a prison pen pal project. He is seeking a correspondent who is interested in engaging in fellowship about the Bible. If you think this may interest you, or if you would just like to know more about opportunities to correspond with an incarcerated person, please contact Gay Gardner. She can help you get started and provide guidance along the way. The relationships built in this way can be very enriching for both those inside and outside the prison walls.

Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays and Wednesdays

Little River collects donations for neighbors in need across Northern Virginia and works with F.I.S.H. volunteers for distribution; walk in requests for food donations can be made by contacting the church office. We invite you to bring donations for the food pantry to the church on Communion Sundays (usually the first Sunday of each month) and place them in the narthex. Food donations may also be dropped off on Wednesdays by placing your items in bags outside the church front doors before 3 P.M. Food bags are distributed through F.I.S.H. and are packed with canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables, instant milk, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, and pasta sauce.

LENT EVENTS AND SERVICES

Lenten Lunch and Discussion — Sunday, March 10, 11 A.M.

Palm Sunday, March 24 — Special Music during worship service

Lenten Lunch and Discussion — Sunday, March 24, 11 A.M.

Maundy Thursday Service — March 28, 7:30 P.M.

Good Friday Service — March 29, 7:30 P.M.

Easter Sunday, March 31 — Sunrise Service and 10 A.M. Worship Service

EVENTS OF THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2024

Sunday, March 17	9:00	Meditation Group Meeting
	10:00	Sunday Worship Service (Hybrid)
	10:00	Nursery
		Fair Trade Sale (before/after worship service)
	11:15	Handbell Rehearsal/Room 8
	11:30	Confirmation Class/Jubilee Room
	11:30	BOSJ Meeting/Conference Room
Monday, March 18	10:00	Religious Studies (Hybrid)
	7:00	Scouts
Tuesday, March 19	12:00	Staff Meeting
Wednesday, March 20	1:30	Greenspring Ministry
	7:30	Music Committee
Thursday, March 21	3:00	Strategic Planning Committee
	7:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 22		No LRUCC Activities
Saturday, March 23	8:30	Yoga Class
	9:30	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary Flowers

We have some available dates in 2024 for sanctuary flower sign ups. Do you have a special date you would like to dedicate with a donation for flowers for Sunday worship? We will include a dedication in the worship bulletin if you choose a date and donate the flowers for Sunday worship (suggested donation is between \$75–100). **We also have Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday available.** Contact the church office at office@lrucc.org to sign up for a Sunday to donate flowers.

253 Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

Unison

1. Spir - it, come, dis - pel our sad-ness; pierce the clouds of
 2. Let your fire heal our dis-sen-sions, let your flame re -
 3. Au - thor of the new cre - a - tion, come, a - noint us

na - ture's night; come, O Source of joy and glad-ness,
 fine our goals, let your peace re - solve our ten-sions,
 with your power. Make our hearts your hab - i - ta - tion;

breathe your life and spread your light. From the height that
 send your dove to soothe our souls. Let your wind flow
 with your grace our spir - its shower. Hear, O hear our

knows no mea-sure, as a gra-cious shower de - scend,
 fresh with - in us, sweep-ing clean all hate and strife
 sup - pli - ca - tion, bless - ed Spir - it, God of peace!

bring-ing down the rich-est trea-sure we can wish, or God can send.
 from our hearts; O come and win us for a more a - bun-dant life.
 Rest up - on this con-gre-ga-tion with the full-ness of your grace.

WORDS: St. 1, 3, Paul Gerhardt, 1648; tr. John Christian Jacobi, c. 1725, alt.;
 st. 2, Jane Marshall, 1975
 MUSIC: Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

PLEADING SAVIOR
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Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow 236

1. Wind who makes all winds that blow—gusts that bend the sap-lings low,
 2. Fire who fuels all fires that burn—suns a-round which plan-ets turn,
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, Wind and Flame, move with-in our mor - tal frame.

gales that heave the sea in waves, stir-rings in the mind's deep caves—
 bea - cons mark-ing reefs and shoals, shin-ing truth to guide our souls—
 Make our hearts an al - tar pyre, kin-dle them with your own fire.

aim your breath with stead-y power on your church this day, this hour.
 come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sa - cred flame!
 Breathe and blow up - on that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,

Raise, re - new the life we've lost, Spir - it God of Pen - te - cost.
 Light and Pow - er, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.
 speak that tongue which ev - every land by your grace shall un - der - stand.

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger, 1983
 MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1879

ABERYSTWYTH
 77.77D