

# *Transfiguration of Our Lord*

## *Sunday, February 23, 2020*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
215 N. Warren St.  
Orwigsburg, PA  
570-366-2316  
[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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### **GATHERING**

*As we gather together, let us now refrain from conversation, quiet ourselves,  
and welcome the Lord Jesus Christ into our midst.*

<b>PRELUDE (8:00)</b>	“Beautiful Savior”	J. Linker
<b>BELL CHOIR (10:30)</b>	“Beautiful Savior”	S. Eithun

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us gather in the name of Father, the † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
One in Three, and Three in One, ever glorious and blessed Trinity.  
**Amen.**

Recognizing our failures and faults, let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Almighty God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you and against our neighbors  
by what we have done and by what we have failed to do.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us, heal us, and renew us,  
that the Light of Christ might shine in us—and through us.**

**Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus who says,  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”

Know that you are forgiven of your sins,  
and that you are freed to love God and serve your neighbor.

May the Light of Christ guide you now and forever. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

#671

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

### A Reading from Exodus

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

(Exodus 24:12-18)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 2 (Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Why are the nations in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup>**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against his anointed?**

<sup>3</sup>“Let us break their yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their bonds from us.”

<sup>4</sup>**He whose throne is in heaven is laughing;  
the LORD has them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup>Then he speaks to them in his wrath,  
and his rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup>**“I myself have set my king  
upon my holy hill of Zion.”**

<sup>7</sup>Let me announce the decree of the LORD:

He said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

<sup>8</sup>**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.**

<sup>9</sup>You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery.”

<sup>10</sup>**And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup>Submit to the LORD with fear,  
and with trembling bow before him;

<sup>12</sup>**lest he be angry, and you perish;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.**

<sup>13</sup>Happy are they all  
who take refuge in him!

## **A Reading from Second Peter**

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

(2 Peter 1:16-21)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

(Matthew 17:1-9)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“How Good Lord to Be Here”

#315

## **SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED (In Unison)**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, your loving power is at work among us. Empower your church, that we too might be set alight in the world for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Awesome God, you show your majesty in the mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Help us to see your magnificence in all your created world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of nations, guide world leaders in justice and righteousness that they may work for equity for all people and protect all that you have made. Hear us O, God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, bring freedom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind (*especially...*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of Moses and Elijah, reveal yourself in this congregation, that all who enter this community of faith might be transformed by your brilliance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the witness of those who lived and died in the faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

# OFFERING

*For 10:30 service ushers: Take the offering plates from the table in the back of the church. Receive the collection along the center aisle, from front to back, then walk behind the last pews and up the side aisles to receive the collection on the outside aisles, again from front to back. Return to the back and wait for the Communion Assistant to come forward with the alms basin.*

**Offertory (8:00)**      “How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”      J. C. Bach

**Anthem (10:30)**      “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”      D. J. Butler

*Chancel & Bell Choirs*

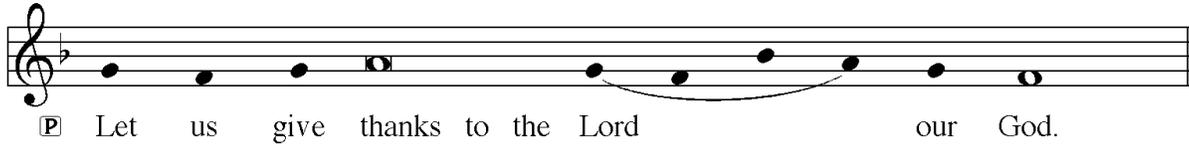
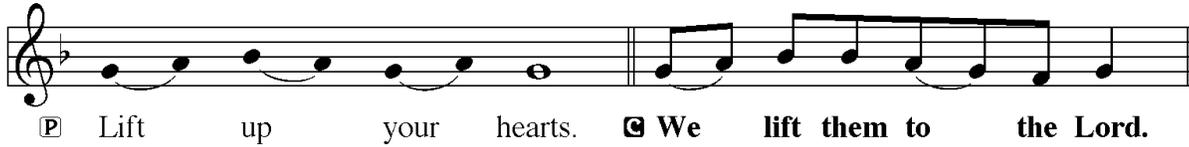
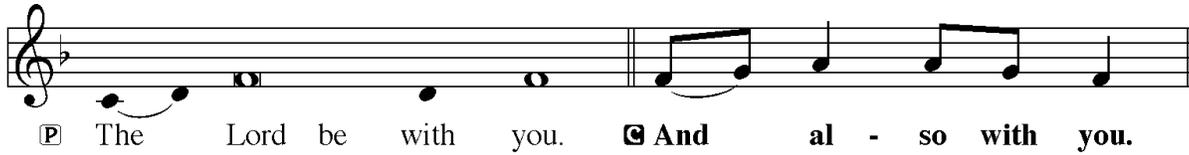
## OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of wonder, you give us the gift of life and daily bring forth abundance from your creation. Upon this table, we place bread and wine, and offer all we are, and all we have. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. **Amen.**

## MEAL



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

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 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 and ever. Amen.

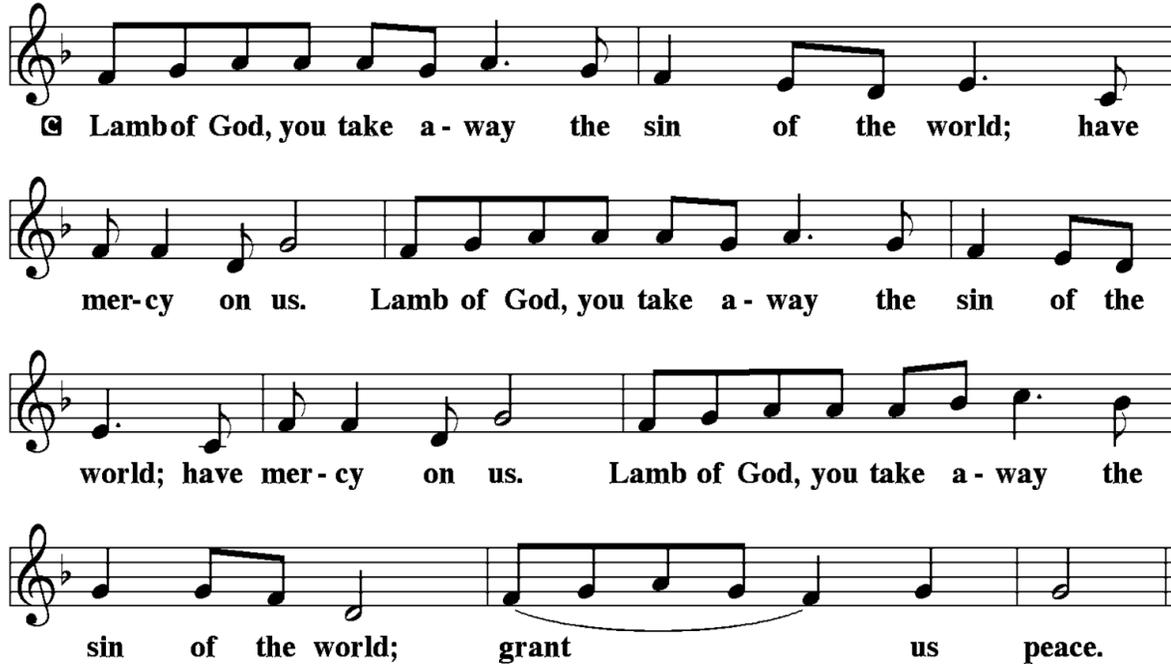
## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table of mercy and joy.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament in their pews. Those who do not desire to receive the Sacrament may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## AGNUS DEI



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

“Beautiful Savior”

#838

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### **BLESSING**

May the Lord open your eyes to God's presence,  
surround you with great love, and fill your days with glory;  
and may the blessing of God the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you this day and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

#318

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Let the Light of Christ shine in all that you say and do.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“Recessional in C Major”

D. Lasky

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

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**Altar Flowers** are presented in loving memory of Harry W. Lafko by his family.

**Chancel Flowers** are presented in honor of the Couch/Cole family and their contributions to our church and community by the Richards and Dixon families.

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of Jackson Jeffrey Ritschel's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel.

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### **WELCOME TO ALL!**

Members are encouraged to fill out a Friendship Pad located in every pew. Visitors are encouraged to sign our Welcome Book in the narthex. If you have a special need or concern, please share it with the Greeter at the door -- or with the Pastor.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Our Ash Wednesday service is set for Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The imposition of ashes and the distribution of Holy Communion will be available to all who attend. Please come to this special worship service and invite a friend or neighbor to join you!

## ANNUAL REPORT

Our congregation's Annual Report for 2019 is still available to every household. If you haven't picked up a copy at the church, please call the church office (at 570-366-2316), request a copy and give your name, phone number, and address.

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### SERVING TODAY (2/23/20)

8:00 AM

**LECTOR:** Deb Moyer; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Gail Rarick

10:30 AM

**LECTOR:** Chris Long; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Doug Travor; **USHERS:** Diane Brobst and Steve Zimmerman; **GREETER:** Sue and Mike Petresky; **COUNTERS:** Connie Teter, Jean Premich, and Barb Sterner; **ALTAR GUILD:** Jean Premich and Joyce O'Rourke

### SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (3/1/20)

8:00 AM

**LECTOR:** Kay Weidensaul; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

**LECTOR:** Robin Zimmerman; **COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Chris Long  
**USHERS:** Wayne Lutsey and Karen Travor; **GREETER:** Scott Butler;  
**COUNTERS:** Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
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Sunday, February 23	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship
Monday, February 24	6:00 PM	Stewardship in Creation
Wednesday, February 26	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday, February 27	6:30 PM	Financial Peace
Saturday, February 29	7:30 AM	STiC Event at Middle Creek
	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, March 1	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship

<b>Reverend Michael T. Petresky, Pastor</b> pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316 Ext. 11
<b>Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director</b> justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-573-4076
<b>Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff</b> office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316
<b>Carl Heintzelman, Sexton</b>	484-408-5152
<b>Karen Travor, Treasurer</b> karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-8757
<b>Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary</b>	570-366-8766
<b>Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager</b> jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	936-648-6809

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### **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

Pastor Mike will preach on Jesus' "I AM" sayings (which are found in the Gospel of John) during a series of four (4) midweek Lenten services which will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Learn more about Jesus' heavenly identity and consider how the great "I AM" continues to change lives. Everyone is invited to attend!

### **NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

#### Spring Justice Retreat - March 28, 2020

This retreat will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Breinigsville, PA. The theme will be: Diversity - Reaching Across Barriers to Live as God's People. Information is available at our WELCA bulletin board. Deadline to register is March 14, 2020.

### **STEWARDSHIP IN CREATION EVENT**

Individuals and families are invited to see migrating snow geese and tundra swans at Middle Creek Wildlife Management, 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA., on Saturday, February 29, 2020. The sign-up sheet for this event is in the Gathering Place. We meet at 7:30 AM at the church and travel to the site in Lancaster County. Some carpooling may be available. Participants may have lunch and return when they like. Everyone will be responsible for their own travel, meals, and safety. Please consider bringing walking shoes, snacks, water, binoculars, a camera, a hat, sunglasses, rain gear, and money if you want something from the museum/gift shop. For more information, please contact Sue Reier at 570-617-3741.

[**Note:** The Financial Committee Report and the balances in our investment accounts with Weik Capital Management were not included in our Annual Report for 2019. They appear below.]

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Finance Committee typically meets in April, July and October with Treasurer Karen Travor to review the church's year-to-date income statement. The various church fund balances are also reviewed.

Towards the end of the year, the committee meets monthly to draft an operating income statement budget for the upcoming calendar year guided by input from the Mutual Ministry Committee, the Property Committee, and of course Church Council.

On our committee's behalf, the Treasurer submits the year's final income statement, year-end church fund balances, and the proposed operating income statement budget for approval by the congregation at the February annual meeting.

The committee also facilitates an annual presentation by our investment broker to Church Council to review the performance of our 'Unrestricted' [requires Church Council consent to access any of the principal balance] and 'Restricted/Endowment' [requires congregational consent to access any of the principal balance] investment accounts.

On behalf of our committee and as a member of the congregation, I want to earnestly praise Treasurer Karen Travor for all that she quietly does on our collective behalf in faithfully directing our finances these many years. Thank you Karen!.

Wayne Lutsey  
Finance Committee Chair

[For the sake of comparison, the balances are listed for January 31, 2019 and January 31, 2020.]

	Balance as of 1/31/19	Balance as of 1/31/20	Difference
Endowment Fund	\$270,861	\$311,385	+\$31,524
Unrestricted Fund	\$320,984	\$355,537	+\$34,553
Totals	\$600,845	\$666,922	+\$66,077

# *Easter Flower Orders*

Please detach lower portion and place in the offering plate in the Gathering Room  
or return by U.S. Mail.

**Deadline: Sunday, March 22, 2020**

No orders will be taken after this date.

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Type of flower</b>	<b>How Many</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Sponsorship</b>
Asiatic Lilies	_____X	\$8	_____	H/M_____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (Purple)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (Pink)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinth (White)	_____X	\$7	_____	H/M_____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____X	\$15	_____	H/M_____

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_