

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026 – 11:00 am



7620 Lanier Drive, Cumming, GA 30041
(770) 887-6801

office@deercreekpreschurch.org
www.deercreekpreschurch.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** Please stand in body or in spirit*
(**Bold** = unison; **Bold Italics** = sung)

GATHERING

PRELUDE & CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Passante

CALL TO WORSHIP

Evie Studd, Liturgist

(Ezek. 36:3; Ps. 130:7)

O mortal, can these bones live?

Only the Lord God knows.

O people, hope in the Lord.

With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

* **HYMN #265**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

(Rom. 8:6, 10)

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Passante

Lord of life: We confess that our faith has been small. You promise to raise us up into a new way of life, yet we live as though that were not possible. We satisfy ourselves with the scraps of this earth, turning away from the riches of heaven you offer us. Forgive our failure to believe your sure promises; breathe on us again with your life-giving Spirit, that we may be filled with such a spirit of life that others may be drawn to the source of our life, Given to us through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Passante

(Ezek. 37:4; Rom 8:10-11)

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*GLORIA PATRI

HYMN #581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Passante

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Evie Studd, Liturgist

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PSALM READING

Evie Studd, Liturgist

Psalm 130

Holy Bible, OT p. 573

ANTHEM

Change My Heart, O God

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Passante

**HYMN #286*

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

GOSPEL READING
John 11: 1,3,5-6, 17-26, 32-44

Rev. Passante
Holy Bible, NT p. 105

SERMON

“Out of Our Hands”

Rev. Passante

LITANY OF BEGINNING

Rev. Andy Casto-Waters

TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP

General Presbyter: Friends, today we mark the establishment of a covenant to begin a season of ministry between Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante and Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church. The three parties involved in this agreement are the pastor, the congregation, and the presbytery. Rev. Passante has been engaged by the Session and approved by Cherokee Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry to provide spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and administrative oversight to the congregation during their season of ministry here.

Member of Commission on Ministry: It is my privilege to be with you this morning, as you mark the establishment of this covenant for ministry. On behalf of the Presbytery’s Commission on Ministry, I am pleased to confirm that Rev. Passante has been examined and approved for this work. The Commission on Ministry affirms the Session’s choice and prays that the covenant we’ve entered may be a source of blessings to us all.

General Presbyter: A covenant is a promise—a promise of faith and practice, sealed by the grace of God. Nikki, before God and in the presence of these witnesses, I ask you:

Do you promise to be faithful in taking on this new trust and responsibility, in serving as the Interim Pastor of Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church?

Do you promise to serve the people of Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Member of Session: Fellow members of the congregation—

Do you acknowledge, welcome, and receive Rev. Passante to serve as our Interim Pastor? Do you?

Do you promise to encourage their ministry here, to pray for them, and to undertake the work that falls to us now as we move, with Pastor Passante's help, through our next season of ministry? Do you?

Rev. Passante, please accept our love and care for you as a sign of our commitment to you as our Pastor. On behalf of the congregation, we promise to support you and graciously encourage you in your ministry here. May your time here, as long as God continues to call you, be a blessing to you.

General Presbyter: Let us pray. Now, may God's love and mercy surround and uphold Nikki, the Session of Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church, and all who are engaged in ministry here. May this time of transition, and the work with which it is filled, strengthen the church and bring blessing to many throughout this community, in the name of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed, *Hymnal* p. 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Passante

THE 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 our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Passante



To make an offering online, scan this code or visit
www.deercreekpreschurch.org.
Thank you for your support.

***DOXOLOGY**

HYMN #606

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Evie Studd, Liturgist

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

***HYMN #314**

Christ Be Our Light

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Passante

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

HYMN #765

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

POSTLUDE

IN MINISTRY TODAY – March 22, 2026

Liturgist: Evie Studd

Greeters: Jim & Nancy Wilson

Counters: Linda Jackson & JoAnn Mulray

Fellowship: The Presbyterian Women

Flowers: OPEN

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante

Reading: Matthew 21: 1-11

Sermon: “Ride On, King Jesus!”

IN MINISTRY – March 29, 2026

Liturgist: Barbara Henry

Greeters: OPEN

Counters: Linda Oliveira

Fellowship: Brenda Gossett & JoAnn Mulrey

Flowers: OPEN

If you would like to assist in any of the above capacities, please contact the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Last Sunday, March 15

In Attendance: 42 Collection: \$2,235.00

THE SESSION

Charlotte Dewberry (2026) Jerry Scarborough (2026)

Ron Studd (2027) Linda Jackson (2027)

Barbara Henry (2028) Linda Oliveira (2028)

Nancy Tims, Clerk

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor: Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante
nikki@deercreekpreschurch.org
Church Administrator: Keith Tims
office@deercreekpreschurch.org
Preschool Director: Lauren McNamara
770-888-5101
deercreekpreschool@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN PRAYER

(Please review the prayer list and notify the office of updates.)

Leslie Etherton, George Marks, Loretta Marks, Harriette Cady, Chantel Druivenga, Sudie LaPlue, Don and Betty Shuman, Jerry and Linda Snowden, Reverend Sid Gunter, Isaac Bucks, Jim Wilson, Bobbye Wright, The family of Jim Byrd, Glenn Simpson, Jackson Jebcoat, Chip Jabaley, Milly Whatley, Brenda Gossett, Sharon Gossett

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – SUNDAYS at 10am – Grace Cox Room. Led by Ken Terry. We are currently studying the books of the Bible starting with the Old Testament. Come join us for interesting discussion and learning. All are welcome.

CANDY FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT – Our annual Easter Egg hunt is coming soon and we're asking for donations of candy! The candies should be individually wrapped and sized to fit small plastic eggs. Please avoid candies with nuts. We're also happy to accept donations of stickers or other small, fun items that could fit in the eggs! Drop off your donations in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 29.

SHADY GROVE RV PARK - Thank you for your monthly contributions! *Items especially needed for April are instant coffee (individual packets), hamburger or tuna helper, canned meat (chicken, beef stew, or chili), canned vegetables, and toilet*

paper. Additional items needed are cleaning supplies such as Spic & Span, multi-surface cleaner, sponges, paper towels, Pine Sol, Palmolive, laundry detergent, disinfectant wipes, tall trash bags; personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, band aids, Neosporin and Bactine spray. Please leave your donation in the Fellowship Hall by *Sunday, April 5th*. Questions? Contact Linda Jackson at linda.s.jackson25@gmail.com.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS — Sudie LaPlue (6th), Don Wagner (25th), Ana Price (29th)

SANCTUARY FLOWERS – Flowers beautify the Sanctuary of our church and are a gift to God and those who attend our worship service. Giving flowers is a lovely way to remember someone or commemorate a special occasion. If you would like to sign up for a date to place flowers in the sanctuary during our service, please see the registration book in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your contribution toward enriching our worship services.

– The Worship Committee

PRAYER REQUESTS & OTHER NEEDS - Please send all prayer requests to office@deercreekpreschurch.org. If you have any need or concern, please do not hesitate to contact any Elder or the church office.

Bulletin announcements due by Noon on Wednesday.
office@deercreekshorespreschurch.org
(770)-887-6801

Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday at 11am.
Connect and catch up with us at any time on
Facebook and YouTube!
[facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch)
[youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch](https://www.youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch)

Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church – Priorities for 2026

1. Increase membership and participation through connecting with and serving those who reside in our community through enhanced community outreach. To include Youth and Preschool.
2. Revitalize the Congregational Care Ministry within our church and congregation.
3. Increase regular opportunities for the congregation to gather outside of worship for fellowship.
4. *Completed.* Create policies including Child Protection, Sexual Harassment, Anti-Racism, as required by the Book of Order.
5. Improve and develop leadership and communication skills for this church.

These four priorities for the life of the congregation in 2025 were identified by the Session at its recent Leadership Retreat. Look out for the important action steps that are being identified towards expressing these priorities. Pray that these priorities and the action steps identified will help lead the congregation forward in its life and witness. Be considering ways you can participate in expressing these priorities.

Membership at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

If you are reading this information in our Worship Bulletin, you already belong here at Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church. Here, all are welcome, and membership in the congregation is not required to participate in any of our activities and ministries. By becoming a member, you will have voice and vote in congregational meetings and can better express your commitment to Jesus Christ through this church. Welcoming people as members helps us to get to know them better and to support you more fully – letting all of us stay engaged and grow in faith together. Individuals may join the church by Profession of Faith and Baptism (for those who have never been baptized), by Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who are not currently active members of another Christian church), or by Transfer of Church Letter (for those on the active role of another church.) Contact the office to find out more.



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Welcome to Deer Creek Shores!

We would love to connect with you! Consider signing the Friendship Pad found in the Pews, or checking in digitally this morning so we can follow up with you!