

# Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian Church

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 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  
CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Rev. Dr. Short

CALL TO WORSHIP

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

(John 8:12)

Jesus said: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Let us pray.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth might discern good from evil you sent your Son to be the light of the world. As Christ shines upon us, may we learn what pleases you, and live in all truth and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

\* **HYMN #32**

***I Sing the Mighty Power of God***

### CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Short

(Rom. 5:8; Heb. 4:16)

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Short

(John 4: 5-24)

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not**

loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Short

(Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

\*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. Dr. Short

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

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Short

**\*HYMN #39**

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

GOSPEL READING

John 9: 1-41

Rev. Dr. Short

*Holy Bible p.102*

SERMON

“Gradual Illumination”

Rev. Dr. Short

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Short

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord.  
Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace.***

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Short



*To make an offering online, scan this code or visit  
[www.deercreekpreschurch.org](http://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

Linda Hardie, Liturgist

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

\*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.**

SENDING

\*HYMN #835

*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Short

\*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

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**IN MINISTRY TODAY – March 15, 2026**

*Liturgist:* Linda Hardie

*Greeters:* Vikki & Ken Terry

*Counters:* Linda Hardie & Linda Jackson

*Fellowship:* Nancy & Jim Wilson

*Flowers:* OPEN

**SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, March 22, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Rev. Nikki Perrine Passante**

*Reading:* Psalm 130

*Sermon:* “Out of Our Hands”

**IN MINISTRY – March 22, 2026**

*Liturgist:* OPEN

*Greeters:* Nancy & Jim Wilson

*Counters:* Linda Jackson & JoAnn Mulray

*Fellowship:* OPEN

*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.

**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 prayer list and notify the office of updates.)

Leslie Etherton, George Marks, Loretta Marks, Harriette Cady, Chantel Druivenga, Sudie LaPlue, Linda Oliveira, Wright Family, 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, The Family of Tony Pritchett, 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.

**FUNERAL FOR PAUL POYNTER** – Brother to Brenda Gossett. The service will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Scot Ward Funeral Home in Conyers, GA. Visitation at 2:00pm, Funeral Service at 3:00pm. More information at <https://www.scotward.com/> or (770) 483-7216.

**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.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS** — Sudie LaPlue (6<sup>th</sup>), Don Wagner (25<sup>th</sup>), Ana Price (29<sup>th</sup>)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:office@deercreekshorespreschurch.org)  
(770)-887-6801

### **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. 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 five 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.

**Join us LIVE on Facebook Sunday at 11am.**

Connect and catch up with us at any time on  
Facebook and YouTube!

**facebook.com/Deercreekshorespresbyterianchurch  
youtube.com/@deercreekpreschurch**

### **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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Cumming, GA 30041**



***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!***