

Ormond Uniting Church



James Tissot, 1903, *The Caravan of Abraham*, Jewish Museum New York

Lent 2

March 1, 2026

Minister: Rev Dr Ji Zhang

Chair of Council: Dr Mardie Townsend

Music: Peter Hurley

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE 聚集敬拜

Call to worship

Acknowledgement of Country

1 Hymn: 125 The God of Abraham praise (Verses 1-4)

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION 忏悔祷告

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD 敬听圣言

1st Scripture Reading: Genesis 创世纪 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

2nd Scripture Reading: Psalm 诗篇 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

3rd Scripture Reading: John 约翰福音 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in

him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

2 Hymn: 547 Be thou my vision

Sermon: For God so loved the world

Hymn: 714 Eat this bread, drink this cup (Verses 1-2)

Announcements and concerns of the church

Prayer of the People

Prayers For Our World

based on prayer by Janet Nelson

It is a blessing to have others praying for us. It is also a blessing to when we pray for others. Let us bring our prayers to God. Let us pray.

Most loving God, we give you thanks for the beauty of your created world which you have loved since the dawn of time.

We pray for those places where your creation is willfully destroyed or carelessly neglected. Teach us how to cherish and care for the earth and to share justly with all people the bounty that you provide.

We give thanks for the richness and diversity of human life, for our brothers and sisters in this and other lands.

We pray for all who lack the necessities of daily life and those who face danger, conflict or persecution. Teach us your ways of justice, that violence and oppression may cease and people around the world may know the blessings of freedom and peace.

We give thanks that in your love for us you sent your Son to bring salvation to the world.

We pray for the church, for all with responsibility of leadership and administration and for all who serve you in this place. We thank you for the leadership and vision of the President of our Assembly, Revd. Charissa Suli. Teach us to trust your word, that in faith we may follow where you lead and bring to fruition your purpose in our lives.

We give you thanks that in your love for us you reach out to heal the sick, befriend the lonely and comfort the sad.

We pray for all who are in trouble or distress, for those whose lives feel empty and bleak, for those who mourn the loss of loved ones through separation, illness or death, for the sick, the dying and all who care for them. Teach us to love others as you love us, that we may bring the light of your healing presence to all who are in need.

Loving God, we give you thanks for the promise of eternal life to those who believe in you. We remember your faithful people of every age, your servants Abraham and Sarah and all who have heard your calls and believed your promises. Teach us to follow in their footsteps, that we may be brought to a new birth, grow in your likeness and, with your saints, enter into the joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Hymn: 714 Eat this bread, drink this cup (Verses 3-5)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 圣餐

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE 差遣信徒

The Peace

4 Hymn: 457 The Church's one foundation

Benediction

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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Music: Peter Hurley

Church Office

Tuesdays, 9.30am-1.30pm

Fridays, 9.30am-2.30pm

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NEWS & NOTICES