

### March 23, 2025 Third Sunday In Lent





#### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. **We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!** 

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to **respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths. An invitation to a Holy Lent:

This Lent we invite you to engage in the work and worship of St. Stephen's. It starts on Sundays when we engage in worship that is focused on our penitence as we seek absolution and forgiveness, the promise that God has made us and fulfilled through Christ's death and resurrection. From the Great Litany where we lay bare our souls before God, to the special service orders in An Exhortation and A Penitential Order, we begin our services in Lent with a focus on coming before God, asking for forgiveness, and being given that forgiveness. Flowing out from this worship experience you are invited to partake in our formation opportunities, our fellowship gatherings, and by participating in our outreach ministries. We hope that you will experience a Holy Lent this year.

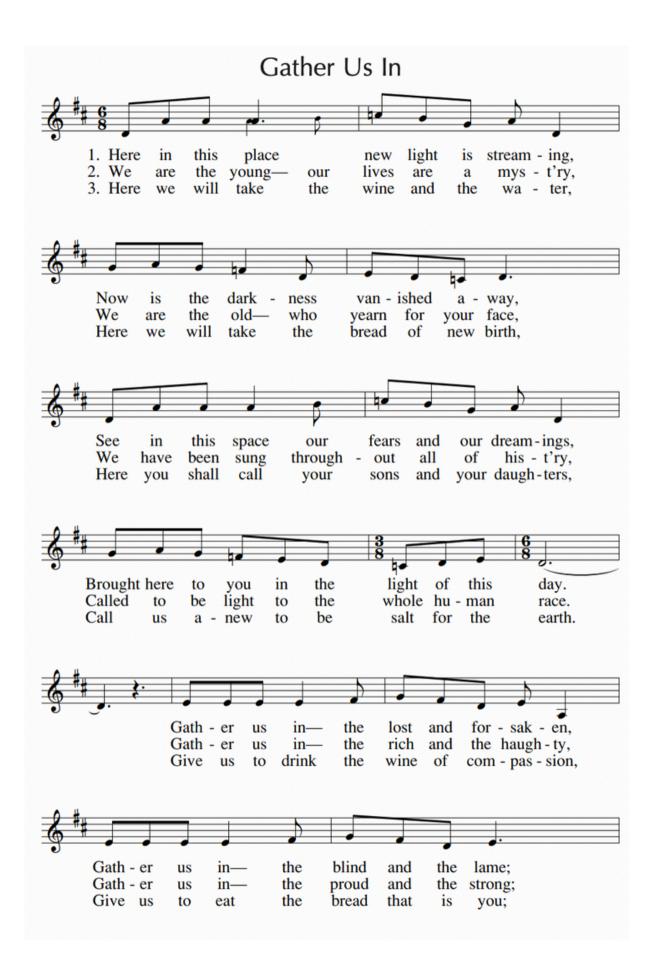
#### Worship Team

Presider Fr. Nic Mather Musician Riki Davis Acolyte Juice Quiroz Altar Guild Becky Edmiston Coffee Hour Tosha Big Eagle Reader Alison Askeland, John Edmiston Greeter Janice Stixrud Chalice Michele Waite Usher Greg Moore Verger John Edmiston Vestry Presence Greg Moore, Robin Swecker

Connect with Fr. Nic:

Please leave your name and email/phone number and Fr. Nic will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on him!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_





#### A Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. His mercy endures for ever.

#### The Decalogue

Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not make for yourself any idol. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor your father and your mother.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not commit murder.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not commit adultery.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not steal.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not be a false witness.

Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lord have mercy upon us, and write all your laws in our hearts.

5

"Seeing that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." *Hebrews 4:14,16* 

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

#### Silence

Almighty and most merciful father,

we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against your holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare you those who confess their faults,
restore you those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared unto all creation in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,

that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Kyrie

Ann Marie Long



Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

The Lord by with you. **And with your spirit.** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 63:1-8

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \* my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, \* that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; \* my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live \* and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \* and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, \* and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, \* and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; \* your right hand holds me fast.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People. Thanks be to God.

#### Gospel Procession (before reading, please stand as able)

Gather Hymnal #474

From ashes to the living font Your Church must journey, Lord. Baptized in grace in grace renewed by your most holy Word.

The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke 13:1-9 **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of our Savior. Glory to you, O Christ.

#### **Gospel Recession (after reading)**

You call us to be penitent, You tend us patiently, Preserving us from perishing, So fruitful we might be.

#### 11 Homily-The Rev. Nic Mather

## THE NICENE CREED

(Please stand as able)

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Celebrant:* Loving God who is our refuge and our strength; hear us we beg you; listen to our words and the longings of our hearts as we turn to you in prayer, saying Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Leader:* Give strength to your people across the whole earth, that we may be the lights of the world in our generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Give mercy to those in authority over us that they might be leaders in service to the well-being of all people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Give hope and courage to this congregation, that together, we might be bold and courageous in taking up Christ's ministries as our own. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Give wisdom and determination to us and to all people, so that we might create a sustainable future for the equitable use of the abundance of creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Give wholeness to those bent and broken by sickness, pain, fear, oppression, or abuse, that they might hold on to their own dignity as your beloved children. We pray especially for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Les Monroe, Larry Riles, Tammy Robinson, Jo Pellows, Sharlene Snaza, Lisa Sudar, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *Pause*. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Give comfort to those who grieve and care to those who have died, and grant that we might all know resurrected life in your new age. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Celebrant: God of creation and salvation; you have promised to answer when we knock. We offer these prayers and all the intentions of our own hearts in the confidence of your promises, and we ask these through our advocate and Lord, Christ Jesus. **Amen.** 

## THE PEACE & OFFERTORY

(Please stand as able)

The Peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be always with you. **And with your Spirit.** 

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

#### Offertory Bells--"Sarabande" Henry Purcell

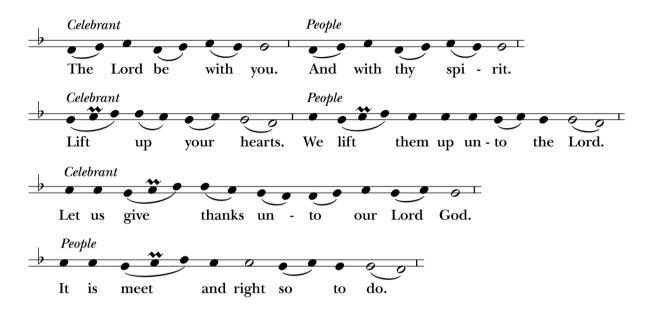


A mosaic reminder of Matthew 23:37-39: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Dominus Flevit ("The Lord Wept") Church, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(Please stand as able)

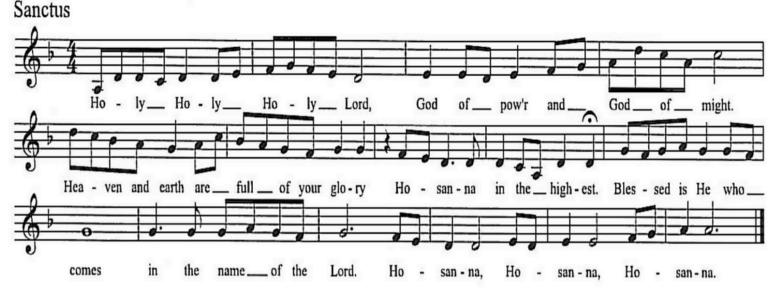


Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and saying,



(You may choose to stand or kneel as able)

All glory be to you, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that you, of your tender mercy, did give your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink you all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of your dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, your humble servants, do celebrate and make here before your divine Majesty, with these your holy gifts, which we now offer unto you, the memorial your Son has commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto you most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech you, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of your almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with your Word and Holy Spirit, these your gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all your whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto you, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto you; humbly beseeching you that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto you any sacrifice, yet we beseech you to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

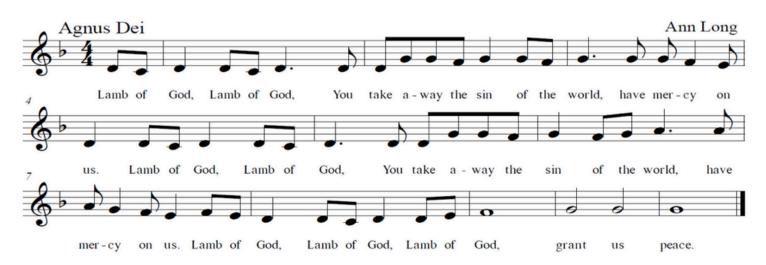
By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto you, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN**. And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

#### Agnus Dei



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

#### **Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor**

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **AMEN**.

#### Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

#### The Hymnal 1982, **#671**



The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; compiled by Richard Broaddus and Andrew Broaddus. Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony* 1831; adapt. att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851-1921); harm. Austin Cole Lovelace (b. 1919). Harmonization Copyright © 1974 by Abingdon Press.

#### Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank you that you feed us in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and do assure us thereby of your favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech you, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

(Please stand as able)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### **Closing Hymn**

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet (found in the pew or at the front door) and if you feel comfortable, introduce yourself to Fr. Nic!

**FISH NEEDS GROCERY BAGS!** The FISH team is requesting any and all grocery bags that you have lying around to be donated to help in our food distribution. We exhausted our supply this past week and need to collect more before our next distribution the week of May 11th.

#### Christ for the world we sing

The Hymnal 1982, #537



Words: Samuel Wolcott (1813-1886). Music: *Moscow*, melody Felice de Giardini (1716-1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916 based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowell Mason (1792-1892).

Lent Fish Fry Friday March 28 @ 5pm Scan QR code to RSVP RSVP Required

## Lent Book Study Wednesdays March 12-April 9 6:30pm @ Hop-n-Grape Talk to Fr. Nic

Palm Sunday April 13 10:30am Maundy Thursday April 17 6pm

Good Friday April 18 Noon Easter Vigil Saturday April 19 6pm

Easter Sunday April 20 10:30am



# **Street Outreach**



Join us for a new expression of our outreach ministry, partnering with our Radical Love feeding ministry, the people of St. Stephen's are called this Lent to participate in a new offering called Street Outreach. This outreach ministry will take essential items with the Radical Love meal out into the streets, passing them out to those in need, and beginning to form new bonds with our siblings on the streets.

### Help us collect a minimum of 150

### of each of the following full-size

#### items this Lent:

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/Floss
- Lip Balm
- Socks
- Feminine Hygiene
- Wet wipes packages
- Bandaids
- Bottles of Water
- Deodorant Sticks
- Kleenex packs

#### **Seasonal Items:**

- Sunscreen
- Hand Warmers
- Emergency Ponchos

### ESSENTIAL ITEMS DRIVE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

### WE WILL COLLECT ITEMS SUNDAYS MARCH 16/23/30

### WE WILL PACK BAGS MARCH 30 & APRIL 6