

A Service of Song, Word, & Table
March 1, 2026

* Please rise in body or spirit.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Lift Thine Eyes (from *Elijah*) Felix Mendelssohn Amanda
Porter, Karah Ingraham, & Karen Marroli

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.

HYMN The God of Abraham Praise UMH 116

*** A READING FROM THE PSALMS**

Psalm 121

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God!

(11:00) ANTHEM Total Praise Smallwood, arr. Rao Chancel Choir

HOMILY

MUSICAL RESPONSE Be Thou My Vision UMH 451

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

Loving God, help us.

**When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love,
when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing,
help us.**

Merciful God, forgive us.

**When we have been selfish, when we have been mean,
when we have neglected the cries of others,
forgive us.**

Powerful God, heal us.

**When we are so broken we cannot move,
when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds,
when we are too ashamed to seek community,
heal us.**

**Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope
to accept your grace and embrace your call in Christ.**

Amen.

These words contain the good news
that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

REGATHERING HYMN

Christ Beside Me

TFWS 2166

INVITATION TO OFFERING & CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 95

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the God of great adventures be with you!

And also with you!

It is God who is able to keep our hearts filled with hope and peace.

We will offer our hearts to the One who is our Keeper.

Trust in the promises whose fulfillment we cannot see.

We lift our songs to the One who is always with us.

You went into the shadows of nothingness,
bearing your Light of creation, Keeper of all,
so that life might burst forth where there was none:
 white sands at the edge of blue green seas,
 shale formed under the crust of the earth,
 warm mornings and frigid nights to mark the seasons.

You blessed your children with creation's gifts
so we might prove to be a blessing to others,
 but we watched the comings and goings
 of sin and death, allowing ourselves
 to be blown about by them.

Prophets responded to your call to them,
daring to bring us those words we did not want to hear,
calling us back to a way of life we had abandoned,
 but we knew that we preferred life
 in the absence of your presence.

For this reason, you sent Jesus into the world,
so that we, along with all creation, might be saved.

With those who toss and turn in the night,
with those who have responded to your call,
we lift our thanksgivings to you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy One, you are the God of blessings,
and Jesus Christ is your Faithful One.
The One who could truly boast,
 he humbled himself to become like us.
The One who was truly righteous,
 he emptied himself to fill us with grace.
The One who had spoken life into existence,
 he embraced death on the cross,
 so that we might be justified

through your grace and wonder.

As we continue on the journey to Jerusalem,
as we seek to leave our comfortable lives to follow,
we would talk about that mystery we call faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

What then are we to say, Keeper of our lives?
It is your Spirit poured out upon us
and upon the gifts of the Table
which brings us new life.
It is the brokenness of the bread
which gives us life, that life
 poured out for those who have no hope,
 for those who wander in the shadows.
It is the grace of the cup
which overflows with your gifts,
 so we might go to be a blessing
 to all forsaken by the world.

And when our journey has ended
and we find ourselves in that land
which you have prepared for us,
we will sing our glad songs to you forever,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN IN YOUR HEART LANGUAGE)

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. Amen.

Amen response. Amen, amen, amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Dr. Daniel Cummings

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

* **SENDING HYMN** O God, Our Help in Ages Past UMH 117

BENEDICTION

Go now in the mercy of God, whose promises never fail, to live as people who have generously received and thus generously share God's gracious gift of new life with all we encounter. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dr. Daniel Cummings