

**Service of Worship**  
**February 22, 2026**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

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*Psalm 32:7: "You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance."*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The good news of the gospel is:  
manna in the desert, water turned into wine,  
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

The good news of the gospel is:  
release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.

So come on in.

There's no time to waste! This surprising, good news is here for you.  
Let us worship this good-news God.

Hymn of Gathering #203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace.**

*Silent prayer*

With faith like a mustard seed we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Lesson: John 2:1-11 (p.1028)

Music for Meditation

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 13:31-32 (p.947)

Sermon

Rev. Todd Davidson

Offering

Doxology – Hymn #582 *Glory To God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me*

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so we believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. We have seen it alive in the world. And even when our hearts ache, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, we remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. We remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. We remember that the good news really is good news, for we have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Hymn of Sending #610 *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Benediction - Poem: "Start With a Wedding" by Sarah Are Speed (insert)

## Start With a Wedding

When it comes time to write my obituary for the local paper, please do not start with my résumé. Do not start with my career or my worldly accomplishments (however small they may be). Do not take up space writing about my alma mater or outlining the entire family tree (we know who we are). Instead, spend your precious little word count on how beautiful it all was. Write about the dinner parties and the fireside chats. Write about the evenings we spent on the front stoop counting fireflies. Write about summers in the mountains and the garden that we grew. Write about the seasons we cried out to God, and the prayers that God answered. Write about the nights we danced, and the days we laughed. When it comes time to tell the story of my life, please take a lesson from the Gospel of John, and start with a wedding. Start with a miracle. Start with the fact that all of it held joy.

**By Rev. Sarah Are Speed**

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