

Service of Worship
March 8, 2026
3rd Sunday in Lent

Psalm 95:2: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Welcome and Announcements

Special Music

Call to Worship

If you need good news, settle into this space. We have good news to share. If you need a word of hope, then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around. If you need a glimmer of joy, then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding. If you need to feel God's presence in your midst, then know that this is God's house. This is the good news of the gospel. God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!

Hymn of Gathering #761 **Called as Partners in Christ's Service**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

Silent prayer

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Lesson: Mark 6:32-44 (p.974)

Music for Meditation

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 3:20-21 (p.1135)

Sermon

Rev. Todd Davidson

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 #301 **Let Us Build a House.** vs.1,3,5

Benediction Poem: Surely, This Must Be It (insert)

Surely, This Must Be It

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel.

You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. “What The World Needs Now is Love”¹ comes on. We can’t get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings.

You’ve invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we’re grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we’re grateful for that too.

And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, What a holy moment it all was. Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely, we can create it together.

By: Rev. Sarah Are Speed

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