Service of Worship
March 15, 2026
4th Sunday in Lent

Psalm 23:6: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Welcome/Announcements

Special Music

Call to Worship
God loves the field mouse. God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew. God loves the child who rocks and claps.
God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats. God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.
God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
So let us worship this good-news God!
Amen.

Hymn of Gathering #**488 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry**

Prayer of Confession
God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."
Holy God, we confess, we have often mistreated the people we think are 'other' in our land.
Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
We confess, we often cling to guns and war more than we pursue peace.
God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."
We confess, we often hoard our resources and fail to care for our neighbors.
Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."
We confess, we sometimes gatekeep the good news in unfair ways.
Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."
By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.
May this good news change our lives.
(Silent prayer)
May this good news change our lives. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 19:13-15 (p.953)

Music for Meditation

Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (p.194)

Sermon Rev. Todd Davidson

Offering

Doxology – Hymn #**606 Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow**

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 #**175 Seek Ye First**

Benediction Poem: Unwritten Agreement (insert)

Includes modified liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Unwritten Agreement

We have this unwritten agreement,
us members of humanity.
When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner,
when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic,
we, the adults in the room, will pledge,
with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch.
We will lean out of our seats.
We will put down our phones.
We will stand at the ready
to scoop up,
to offer words of comfort,
to make silly faces,
to keep an eye on the door.
And we will do this,
because we cannot ignore the instinct to care.
We will do this,
because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us.
We will do this,
because love always includes the least of these.

By Rev. Sarah Are Speed

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