

*Service of Worship*  
*April 6, 2025*  
*5<sup>th</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/Announcements

Anthem

Call to Worship

We come to worship because we long for mercy. We long for community. We long for God. We come to worship because we need a good word. We need connection. We need moral reminders. We come to worship because we are in between: hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction. So we come to worship and God meets us here. Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle.

Hymn of Gathering #435 **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"**

Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, when we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way.**

*Silent prayer*

In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Text: Psalm 119:137-144

Music for Meditation

New Testament Text: Luke 19:1-10

Sermon

Rev. Todd Davidson

Offering

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

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

**In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others. We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith. So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God's help, may it be so. Amen.**

Hymn of Sending #726 **"Will You Come and Follow Me"** vs. 1,3,5

Benediction: Poem, by Sarah Are Speed

## *Righteousness & Mercy*

As children we were taught to tell the teacher.  
(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)  
As children we were taught to always be kind.  
(Friends were made when we spoke love.)  
As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.  
(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)  
So what are the rules for this day and age?  
Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?  
Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?  
Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?  
As always, love is somewhere in between.

**By: Rev. Sarah Are Speed**

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