

Service of Worship
December 14, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

Psalm 146:5: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pastor Todd & Isaac

Call to Worship

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God’s invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. Amen!

Hymn of Gathering #69 ***“Here I Am, Lord”***

Prayer of Confession

Courageous God, you invite us to live into our call. You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust. Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face. We dig our heels in. We look for someone else to volunteer. Spark courage in us. Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference. Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone. You invite us forward. With baby steps we hope and pray.
Silent prayer

In the name of our joy Jesus Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Old Testament Text: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (page 731)

Music for Meditation

Gospel Text: Luke 1:26-39 (page 991)

Sermon

Rev. Todd Davidson

Offering

Doxology – Hymn #88, v.3 ***“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”***

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Affirmation of Faith

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night, and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: *Unto us, love is born.*

We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love.

So *still*, we believe. Amen.

Hymn of Sending #100 ***“Canticle of the Turning”***

Benediction Poem: “The First Step” – Rev. Sarah Are Speed

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

The First Step

Watch any parent. It starts with the first step.
They kneel down. They smile with anticipation.
They reach for their baby, calling and cooing them forward.
And then before they know it, they're running behind a bike.
They're yelling, *"Keep pedaling! You got it! I'm right here!"* And they're jumping up and down, because that little red helmet passed the mailbox. And then, just like that, they're driving circles in the church parking lot. They're giving instructions about easing on and off the pedal. They're having conversations about curfew and heartbreak. And then, before they know it, they're standing in a hospital room. Their heart is bursting. And they say, *"Put her head right here. Rock her gently. Do you remember the nursery rhymes? You were born for this."*

The first step is always the hardest,
but you, beloved, were born for this.

Rev. Sarah Are Speed

The First Step

Watch any parent. It starts with the first step.
They kneel down. They smile with anticipation.
They reach for their baby, calling and cooing them forward.
And then before they know it, they're running behind a bike.
They're yelling, *"Keep pedaling! You got it! I'm right here!"* And they're jumping up and down, because that little red helmet passed the mailbox. And then, just like that, they're driving circles in the church parking lot. They're giving instructions about easing on and off the pedal. They're having conversations about curfew and heartbreak. And then, before they know it, they're standing in a hospital room. Their heart is bursting. And they say, *"Put her head right here. Rock her gently. Do you remember the nursery rhymes? You were born for this."*

The first step is always the hardest,
but you, beloved, were born for this.

Rev. Sarah Are Speed