



the good news is...

so good, it catches  
us by surprise

February 22, 2026

*First Sunday in Lent*

*(†) The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)  
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

# THE CHURCH GATHERS

*Silent Prayer and Time for Centering*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Elegy in B-flat

George Thalben Ball (1896-1987)

Guest Organist - Richard Gress

\*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 PRAISE NO. 98 To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things He hath done, So loved He the world that He  
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, To ev - ery be - liev - er the  
 3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, And great our re - joic - ing thro'

gave us His Son, Who yield - ed His life an a - tone - ment for sin, And o - pened the  
 prom - ise of God; The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves, That mo - ment from  
 Je - sus the Son; But pur - er, and high - er, and great - er will be Our won - der, our

*Refrain*

Life - gate that all may go in.  
 Je - sus a par - don re - ceives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His  
 trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice! O come to the

Fa - ther thro' Je - sus the Son, And give Him the glo - ry, great things He hath done.

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## † 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.

Then you turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

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.

Amen.

## † WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be:

*of course, of course, of course.*

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

### THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson:    [Amos 9:13-14](#)    (Pg. 750) \*\*

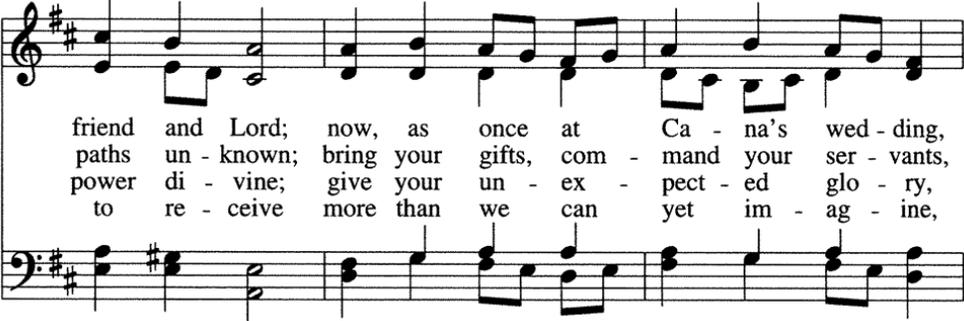
SPECIAL MUSIC

† HYMN OF PREPARATION

## 669 Jesus, Come, for We Invite You



1 Je - sus, come, for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,  
 2 Je - sus, come! trans - form our pleas - ures, guide us in - to  
 3 Je - sus, come in new cre - a - tion, heaven brought near by  
 4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness; make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,  
 paths un - known; bring your gifts, com - mand your ser - vants,  
 power di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,  
 to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak, and let us hear your word: lead us through our  
 let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may  
 chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of  
 all the best you have to give: let us find your



need or doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.  
 work in se - cret, all shall see what you have done.  
 your dis - ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!  
 hid - den rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

WORDS: Christopher Idle (1938-)

MUSIC: Sicilian melody, 18th c.

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SICILIAN MARINERS

8.7.8.7.8.7.

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† GOSPEL LESSON:

[John 2:1-11](#)

(Pg. 863) \*\*

PRESIDER: For the word of God in Scripture,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us,

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

## † GLORIA PATRI

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

### 71 Glory Be to the Father

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the  
Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is  
now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.  
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX  
Irr.

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SERMON: Ho-Soon Han

*“The Good News Is:  
So Good It Takes Us By Surprise”*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be - gun, And I  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, But  
 3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame: The  
 4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; It's  
 5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I  
 they would-n't dance, and they would-n't fol - low me; I  
 ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
 hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
 I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; At  
 danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; They  
 whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And  
 bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone; But  
 live in you if you'll live in me: †



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 came with me and the dance went on.  
 left me there on a cross to die.  
 I am the dance and I still go on.  
 I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance then wher - ev - er you may be; I am the



Lord of the dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher -



ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Text: Sydney Carter, b.1915  
 Tune: LORD OF THE DANCE, Irregular; adapt. from a traditional Shaker melody by Sydney Carter, b.1915  
 © 1963, Stainer & Bell Ltd. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co.)

Words: Sydney Carter © 1963 Stainer and Bell, administered in USA by Hope Publishing Co. 380 Main Place Carol Stream IL; Music: LORD OF THE DANCE 19<sup>th</sup> Century Shaker Tune adapted by Sydney Carter, harmonized by Gary Allan Smith © 1988 UMC Publishing House Nashville TN .; Reprinted and recorded under [oneLicense.net](http://oneLicense.net) #A 711296

# PRAYER SONG

## Ubi Caritas

Refrain

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.  
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there*; Taizé Community, 1978  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Words: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8, Taizé Community © 1978 administered in USA by GIA Publications Inc.; Music: Jacques Berthier © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications Inc.; Reprinted and recorded under [oneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A 711296

# SILENT PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

PRAYER SONG

(See Above)

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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OFFERTORY MUSIC : Improvisation – Richard Gress

# † DOXOLOGY

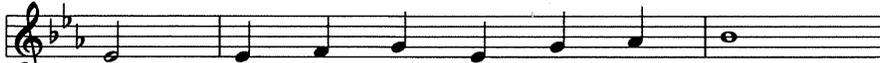
THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

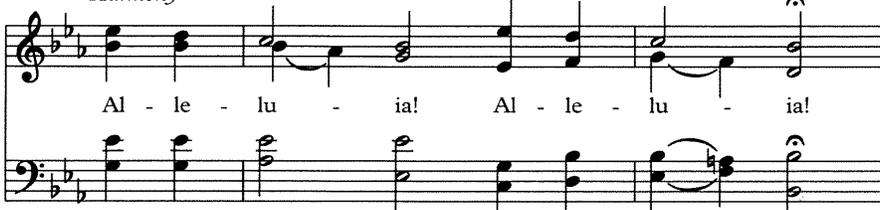


Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;



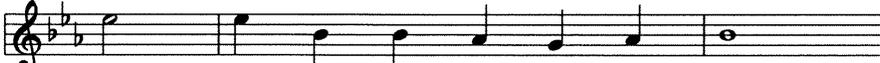
praise God, all creatures here below:

*Harmony*

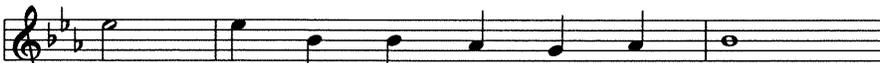


Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Praise God, the source of all our gifts!



Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

*Refrain (Harmony)*



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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Offertory Prayer:

THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

# † HYMN OF DEDICATION NO.

## Christ for the World We Sing 568

1. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 2. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 3. Christ for the world we sing, the world to  
 4. Christ for the world we sing, the world to

Christ we bring, with lov - ing zeal; the poor, and  
 Christ we bring, with fer - vent prayer; the way - ward  
 Christ we bring, with one ac - cord; with us the  
 Christ we bring, with joy - ful song; the new - born

them that mourn, the faint and o - ver - borne,  
 and the lost, by rest - less pas - sions tossed,  
 work to share, with us re - proach to dare,  
 souls, whose days, re - claimed from er - ror's ways,

sin - sick and sor - row - worn, whom Christ doth heal.  
 re - deemed at count - less cost, from dark de - spair.  
 with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.  
 in - spired with hope and praise, to Christ be - long.

WORDS: Samuel Wolcott, 1869  
 MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769

ITALIAN HYMN  
 664.6664

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\*Benediction

Voluntary

March Triumphale

Siegfried Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

## Assisting with Worship today:

Liturgist: Patrick Meehan  
Video and Sound Engineer: Alex Wilderman  
Guest Organist: Richard Gress  
Cover Art: From "A Sanctified Art", Lenten sermon series.

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\*\*\*Worship elements : A Sanctified Art - Lenten Sermon Series.

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### Looking Ahead

Readings for March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday In Lent  
Genesis 12:1-4 / Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 / John 3:1-17



First United Methodist Church

***"Feed the Need"***  
*Putting Our Faith into Motion*  
*By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul*

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