



first community

January 11, 2026

11 am NORTH

GREETING – John

PRELUDE – Tracy Qian, organ

*In dir ist Freude ("In Thee is Joy"),*

BWV 615 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP – John

One: Give thanks to the Holy One,

**Many: For weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

One: Lift up your voices and your lives—

**Many: God is doing a new thing among us.**

One: Prepare the way of love and justice.

**Many: We come to worship with hope, courage, and expectation.**

## OPENING HYMN

*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

**Come, Christians, join to sing:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ we bring:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all with heart and voice,  
before his throne rejoice;  
praise we with gracious choice:  
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Christ is our Guide and Friend  
on whom we can depend;  
his love shall never end:  
Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
his goodness we'll adore,  
singing for evermore:  
Alleluia! Amen!**

WELCOME – John

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – John

ANTHEM- Chancel Choir

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE  
LORD'S PRAYER – John

OFFERTORY

**Invitation to Dream – Glen**

**Receiving the People's Gifts**

**Anthem – Chancel Choir**

*O Love* Elaine Hagenberg (b. 1979)

**Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of  
Dedication- Glen**

ONE: As the gifts are presented, will all rise in  
body or spirit?

**ALL: Generous God,  
we dedicate these gifts not as leftovers, but  
as signs of our readiness—**

**ready to act, ready to love,  
ready to join in the work you are already  
doing. Receive these offerings as  
expressions of trust, and use them to help  
prepare a way for healing, justice, and joy  
to break forth. Amen.**

Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – John**

ONE: Spirit of the Living God,  
open our ears to hear your Word and our  
hearts to receive it.  
Where the way feels unclear, make a path.  
Where hope feels delayed, speak comfort.  
Where justice feels distant, call us forward. By  
your Spirit, illuminate these scriptures, that  
we may see your dream for the world and our  
place within it.  
Amen.

## PSALTER READING–Deacon

Psalm 30:4–5

Sing praises to the Lord, O you God's faithful ones,

and give thanks to God's holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For God's anger is but for a moment;

God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night,

but joy comes with the morning.

## PROPHETIC READING - Deacon

Isaiah 40:1–5

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of  
the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for  
our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

## SERMON – Glen

*The Fierce Urgency of Now*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Go to the World!*

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews  
life's worth,  
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.  
Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and  
space. Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and  
pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant church, you follow Christ's own  
way. Alleluia!**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you till the age shall end,**

**when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Alleluia!**

## **BENEDICTION – Glen**

ONE: Go into the world with courage, trusting  
that God is still speaking, still comforting, still  
making a way and may hope rise faster than  
fear!

Amen.

## **POSTLUDE – Tracy Qian, organ**

*Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54, no. 6*

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)