



first community

January 11, 2026

10 am SOUTH

GREETING – Seth

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

Pastoral "The Lord is my shepherd"

Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Mary Kate

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 – Mary Kate

CHILDREN’S MOMENT – Seth

ANTHEM- Cambridge Choir

Fairest Lord Jesus Derek Hakes (b. 1976)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE
LORD’S PRAYER – Mary Kate

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Dream – Seth

Receiving the People’s Gifts

Anthem – Scott King-Owen, piano

TBD

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

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 – Mary Kate

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.

⁵ 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.

² 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.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of
the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.

⁴ 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.
⁵ 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

HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

**O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Seth

Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Seth

ONE: God of grace,
we give thanks for this table where sorrow
meets hope
and hunger meets abundance.
You have fed us with love that will not let us
go and courage that refuses silence.
Send us from this place nourished and awake,
ready to live with the fierce urgency of now,
trusting that joy is still rising. Amen.

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 – Mary Kate

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 – Robert, organ

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)