



first community

February 15, 2026

10 am SOUTH

GREETING – Mary Kate

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

*Bis du bei mir ("When Thou Art Near")*, BWV  
508 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Mary Kate

One: God does not speak in quick messages or  
easy answers.

**Many: God calls us into presence, patience,  
and trust.**

One: Moses climbed the mountain and waited  
for the voice of God.

**Many: We come, ready to listen—not just  
for words, but for wisdom.**

**One:** God invites us beyond convenience and certainty.

**Many:** Into mystery, holiness, and transformation.

One: Come, worship the God who meets us in holy presence.

**Many:** We come, ready to listen and follow.

## OPENING HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

**Fairest Lord Jesus,  
ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth come down;  
thee will I cherish,  
thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,**

**and all the twinkling, starry hosts:  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer,  
than all the angels heaven can boast.**

**WELCOME – Mary Kate**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT – Mary  
Kate**

**ANTHEM- Cambridge Choir**  
*Be Not Afraid* Craig Courtney

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE  
LORD’S PRAYER – Mary Kate**

**OFFERTORY**

**Invitation to Dream – Mary Kate**

**Receiving the People's Gifts**

**Organ Offertory – Bob**  
*Largo from “Xerxes”* George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)/arr. Boyton Smith

**Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of  
Dedication- Mary Kate**

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

**ALL: Faithful God, You meet us not with quick answers, but with your presence. Bless these gifts and those who give them. Use them to bring justice, mercy, and hope. Shape our lives to reflect your call, as we offer all we have and all we are. 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!**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING - Deacon

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said,

“Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

## SERMON – Seth

*God Doesn't Text*

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses  
move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you are,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.**

## COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Mary Kate  
Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Mary Kate

## CLOSING HYMN

*O Day of God, Draw Near*

**O day of God, draw near in beauty and in  
power,  
Come with your timeless presence now to  
match our present hour.**

**Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and  
afraid,  
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call  
obeyed.**

**Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell  
secure,  
and finely build for days to come  
foundations that endure.**

**Bring to our world of strife your sovereign  
word of peace,  
that war may haunt the earth no more and  
desolation cease.**

BENEDICTION – Mary Kate

POSTLUDE – Robert, organ

*Cortège* Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)