



first community

March 8, 2026

11 am NORTH

Lent 3

GREETING – John

PRELUDE – May, organ

Little Prelude in D Minor

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

CALL TO WORSHIP – John

One: Jesus said, “Put away the sword.”

Many: Love will not be defended by violence.

One: God meets hatred with mercy,

Many: and evil with good.

One: Come, let us worship the God of peace.

Many: Let us worship with courage and hope.

OPENING HYMN

All My Hope on God Is Founded NEANDER (#88 Chalice) - verses 1-3

**All my hope on God is founded,
who does still my trust renew.
Safe through change and chance God
guides me,
ever faithful, ever true.
God unknown,
God alone,
seeks to claim my heart as home.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
though with care and toil we build them,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**But in every time and season,
out of love's abundant store,
God sustains the whole creation
fount of life forevermore.
We who share
earth and air**

count on God's unfailing care.

WELCOME – John

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Sarah

MEXICO COMMISSIONING (11 am only) – Sarah and Glen

Sarah: We now ask this year's Mexico Mission Trip participants to stand as we ask you to commit yourself spiritually to the trip through these questions...

Leader: When a teammate adds too much water to the cement,

Participants: may we have patience with one another.

Leader: When we cut a 2x4 the incorrect length,

Participants: may we forgive ourselves.

Leader: When we don't understand how to hang the tar paper,

Participants: may we ask for help.

Leader: When we are overwhelmed by the great need we see around us,

Participants: may we express our thoughts, our questions, and our hope for a better world to each other, and to God.

Leader: When we hand over the keys to a new home,

Participants: may we see our hands as God's hands, our smiles as God's smile, and our love as God's love.

Leader: Participants in the 2026 Mexico Mission Trip, will you give your best effort to this mission in which we seek to fulfill God's dream for a world in which all people have a safe place to call home? Remember, we are not asking you to be perfect, but to bring your full self to this week of service.

Participants: We will, with the help of God.

Glen: To all gathered, will you support our Mexico Mission Trip participants with your love and prayers, blessing their journey into Mexico? And will you also bless their journey

back to Columbus, knowing the transition back home and the effort to continue to seek God's call in our everyday lives is often the most difficult part of their journey?

All: We will, with the help of God.

**ANTHEM- Chancel Choir and
Suzanne Newcomb, piano**

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE
LORD'S PRAYER – John**

**Alternate Version from the New Zealand
Anglican Prayer Book**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is
love, now and for ever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Dream – Glen

Receiving the People's Gifts

Offertory – Chancel Choir and Suzanne Newcomb, piano

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
arr. John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication- Glen

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

**ALL: God of peace,
you have given us love, not fear,
mercy, not revenge.
Bless these gifts and our lives,
that we may overcome evil with good
and live the peace of Christ.
Amen.**

Doxology Old 100th
**Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did
raise. And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE – Glen

SCRIPTURE READINGS - Deacon Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God,^[a] for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on

their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 26:47–56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.”^[a] Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me.

⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

SERMON – Glen

The Shape of Love:

Seeing God Clearly at the Cross

Part 3: The Shape of Love Rejects Violence

CLOSING HYMN

Hope of the World VICAR (#538 Chalice) -
verses 1, 2, and 5

**Hope of the world, O Christ of great
compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict torn;
save us, your people, from consuming
passion,
from false pursuits through which our
lives are worn.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift our
redemption,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter
strife.**

**Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death
victorious,**

**who by this sign did conquer grief and
pain: reign!**

**We would be faithful to your gospel
glorious;
our Sovereign who forever more shall
reign!**

BENEDICTION – Glen

POSTLUDE – May, organ

Fantasia in C Minor, BWV 537 Johann
Sebastian Bach