



first community

March 8, 2026

10 am SOUTH

Lent 3

GREETING – Seth

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

*Chorale Prelude Erbarm dich mein, o Herre
Gott ("Be Merciful to Me, O Lord God"), BWV
721 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

CALL TO WORSHIP – Seth

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 – Mary Kate

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Mary
Kate**

ANTHEM- Cambridge Choir

For Those Who Pray

Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

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

**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 – Mary Kate

Receiving the People's Gifts

Offertory – Cambridge Choir

Let Us ever Walk with Jesus

arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication – Mary Kate

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

MORECAMBE (#290 New Century) - verse 1

**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 – Seth

Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Seth

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 – Mary Kate

POSTLUDE – Robert, organ
Fantasia in C Minor, BWV 537 Johann
Sebastian Bach