first community

March 15, 2026
11 am NORTH
Lent 4

GREETING – John

PRELUDE – May, organ

TBD

CALL TO WORSHIP – John

One: Christ descended into the depths,

Many: so none would be beyond God's reach.

One: What looked like defeat

Many: became the undoing of death.

One: Come, let us worship the victorious love of God.

Many: Let us worship with awe and trust.

OPENING HYMN

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God
ELLACOMBE (#64 Chalice) - verses 1-3

We sing your mighty power, O God,
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
We sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at your command,
and all the stars obey.

We sing your goodness, sovereign God,
who filled the earth with food;
you formed the creatures with your word,
and then pronounced them good.
Oh! how your wonders are displayed
where'er we turn our eyes,
if we survey the ground we tread,
or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne.
While all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that we can be,
you, God, are present there.

WELCOME – John

Recognize Congregational Care Ministers

BAPTISM – John

Kinsley Christine First

Congregational Promise
ALL: We affirm that this community of faith is filled with love for Kinsley. Our homes are her homes; our resources are her resources. Together we covenant to walk beside Kinsley, to teach her to accept God's grace for herself, and to show her the many faces of God. We pray that together we will fulfill our commitment to Kinsley and to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – John

ANTHEM- Chancel Choir

Open Thou Mine Eyes John Rutter (b. 1945)

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
The Morning Trumpet
arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication- Glen

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

ALL: God of holy mystery,
your love goes where we cannot,
and redeems what we cannot save.
Receive these gifts as signs of hope,
offered in the name of Christ who fills all things. 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 READING - Deacon

Ephesians 4:8–10
8 Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high, he made captivity
itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."
9 (When it says, "He ascended," what does it
mean but that he had also descended into the
lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended
is the same one who ascended far above all
the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

SERMON – Glen

The Shape of Love:
Seeing God Clearly at the Cross
Part 4: The Shape of Love Is a Trojan Horse
Delivered to Hell

CLOSING HYMN

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence LANCASHIRE
(#633 Chalice) - verses 2 and 3

Lead on, O fiery pillar; we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wand'ring, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.

We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy and love is law's demand.

BENEDICTION – Glen

POSTLUDE – May, organ
Hold