



first community

March 15, 2026

10 am SOUTH

Lent 4

GREETING – Mary Kate

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

Elegy for Organ John Ireland (1879-1962)

CALL TO WORSHIP – Mary Kate

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 – Seth

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Seth

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
MINISTERS COMMISSIONING –
Mary Kate

Sherry Goubeaux
Nathan Klabunde
Austin Ahlborn
Alyssa Ahlborn

Amanda Powell
Karen Chakoian
Susan Westbrook

Mary Kate: Dear Friends, you have been called by God and chosen for leadership in this church. This ministry is a blessing and a serious responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among these people and for these people.

In love we thank you for accepting this call to care and challenge you to offer your best to God, to the people you care for, and to our ministry in the world. Do you this day acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus?

CCM: I do.

Mary Kate: Will you devote yourself to the

service of God in the world?

CCM: I will.

Mary Kate: Will you do all in your power to be responsible to the task for which you have been chosen?

CCM: I will.

Mary Kate: Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your blessings upon these your servants who have been given the ministry of congregational care. Grant them grace to give themselves wholeheartedly in your service. Keep before them the example of Jesus, a healer, a prophet, and guide. Walk with them in their work as they care for the people you love so much. Help them to grow in love for You, themselves, and for one another. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

ANTHEM- Whitechapel Ringers

TBD

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

Receiving the People's Gifts

Offertory – Whitechapel Ringers

TBD

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

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**

⁸Therefore 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

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*In Remembrance of Me RED (#403 Chalice) -
verse 1*

**In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time
when God's own will is done.**

**In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and
let your neighbor in,
let them in.**

**Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and
remember too.
That this is my body and precious blood
shed for you, shed for you.**

**In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above,
but in your heart look for God.
Do this in remembrance of me.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Mary Kate
Receiving Communion
Prayer of Thanksgiving – Mary Kate

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 – Seth

POSTLUDE – Robert, organ

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor, BWV 559

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)