



first community

July 5, 2026
10 am SOUTH

GREETING – Mary Kate

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

Solemn Melody

Sir Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941)

CALL TO WORSHIP - Seth

One: In every generation, God hears the cries
of the people.

All: God calls us from fear into freedom.

One: When the road ahead seems uncertain,

All: God remains faithful to every promise.

One: When we are tempted to settle for what
is,

All: God invites us into what can be.

One: On this holiday weekend, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, and we remember that true freedom is found in God's love and justice.

All: We come to worship the One who liberates, restores, and calls us into beloved community. Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing AZMON (#42
New Century) - verses 1-4*

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing
the triumphs of God's grace!**

**My gracious Savior and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.**

**Jesus! the name that calms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears,
is life, and health, and peace!**

**Glory to God, and love and praise
be ever, ever given**

**By all the saints in every age,
the church in earth and heaven.**

WELCOME – Mary Kate

CHILDREN’S MOMENT –Seth

ANTHEM- Sean Hooper, piano
I Am Thine O Lord/Draw Me Close to You
arr. Matt Schinske

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

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Giving—Seth

Receiving the People's Gifts

ANTHEM – Sean Hooper, piano
Patriotic Freedom Medley
arr. Jon M. Ogletree

Doxology – LASST UNS ERFREUEN

(Note this change. The ushers will present gifts DURING the doxology. The prayer of dedication will come after. This allows the

service to flow more smoothly to the Hymn of Preparation.)

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!

Prayer of Dedication - Seth

**ALL: God of freedom and grace,
You have blessed us abundantly and called
us to be a blessing to others. Receive these
gifts and use them to bring hope, justice,
and love into our community and world.
May all that we offer today help share your
good news and reflect your vision for a
more compassionate and peaceful world.
Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Alleluia! Hear God's Story W ZLOBIE LEZY
(#330 Chalice) - verse 1*

**Alleluia! Hear God's story, still unfolding
with each dawn.**

**Taste the wine and body broken: God's
creative love lives on.**

**Who the neighbor? Who the hungry? Who
is thirsty for shalom?
God of journey, in your story; lead us, with
the neighbor, home.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Seth

Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Seth

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON -

Deacon

Exodus 6: 1-7

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh: indeed, by a mighty hand he will let them go; by a mighty hand he will drive them out of his land.”

² God also spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. ³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name ‘The Lord’ I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵ I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians have enslaved, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the Israelites: I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will

redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.

HISTORICAL READING – Mary Kate

The Gettysburg Address - Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

Intro: This is a reading of the Gettysburg Address, delivered by President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the national cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19th, 1863.

Lincoln's speech is a clear call for the birth of a new freedom and the ongoing work of democracy. It is a proclamation that continues to resonate across our land and invites us to embrace the responsibilities that come with freedom itself.

READING: Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of

that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

SERMON –Glen
A New Birth of Freedom

HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies MATERNA
(#720 Chalice) - verses 1-3

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed full grace on thee,
and crown thy good with servanthood
from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.**

**O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.**

BENEDICTION– Glen

POSTLUDE – Robert

Fanfare

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)