



first community

August 16, 2026

10 am SOUTH

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS–

Video

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

A Morning Contemplation

Stanley Vann (1910-2010)

CALL TO WORSHIP - Seth

One: We gather in the presence of God, who sees beyond labels and assumptions.

Many: God knows each of us more fully than we know one another.

One: Jesus calls us to look again—to see our neighbors with compassion, curiosity, and grace.

Many: May we release the stories that divide us and make room for love.

One: Come, let us worship the God who sees us, knows us, and welcomes us.

Many: With open hearts and open minds,
let us worship God together.

OPENING HYMN

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether #337 New
Century UNION SEMINARY verses 1-3

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them;
alleluia, alleluia!
Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Giver
break the bread and bless the cup,
alleluia, alleluia!
So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true.
Alleluia, alleluia!
we may serve with faith anew.

WELCOME – Mary Kate

CHILDREN'S MOMENT– Seth

ANTHEM- Alyssa Schott Ahlborn,
soprano

Goin' Home

**Antonin Dvorak (1841-1904)/arr. Patti
Drennan**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE
LORD'S PRAYER – Mary Kate

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Giving—Seth

Receiving the People's Gifts

ANTHEM – Alyssa Schott Ahlborn, soprano

Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee

Howard Helvey

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication
– Seth

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

All: Generous God, you have given us more grace than we can measure. Receive these gifts and use them to build a community where people are seen with compassion, welcomed without judgment, and loved as your children. May our generosity reflect the love of Christ in all we say and do. Amen.

Doxology – LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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!**

GOSPEL LESSON -Deacon

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to

him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

SERMON – John

The Stories We Tell About Other People

HYMN OF PREPARATION

***Where Charity and Love Prevail* #396 New Century CHRISTIAN LOVE verse 1**

**Where charity and love prevail, there God
is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love, by
love are we thus bound.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Mary Kate

Receiving Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Mary Kate

HYMN

In Christ There Is No East or West #395
New Century ST. PETER verses 1-4

**In Christ there is no East or West,
in Christ no South or North;
But one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
God's service is the golden cord
close-binding humankind.**

**In Christ is neither Jew nor Greek,
and neither slave nor free;
For all God's children live in God,
and all are kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both East and West,
in Christ meet South and North;
One joyous, true community
throughout the whole wide earth.**

BENEDICTION– Seth

POSTLUDE – Robert

Tuba Tune in D Major

Craig Sellar Lang (1891-1971)