



first community

September 20, 2026

11 am SOUTH

GREETING – Sarah

PRELUDE – Tracy Qian, organist

Voluntary on "Come Down, O Love Divine"

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), arr.

John G. Barr

CALL TO WORSHIP - John

One: God calls us to be strong—not in
ourselves alone,

**Many: But in the strength of love, grace,
and truth.**

One: When fear tells us to retreat,

Many: God gives us courage to stand.

One: When the world tempts us toward anger,
division, or despair,

**Many: We will stand firm in compassion,
justice, and hope.**

One: Come, people of God. Be strong in the
Spirit and courageous in love.

Many: Together, let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy #23 New
Century IN BABILONE verses 1-2*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

WELCOME – Sarah

CHILDREN'S MOMENT– John

ANTHEM- Whitechapel Ringers

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas A. Dorsey /arr. Douglas E. Wagner
(b.1952)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE
LORD'S PRAYER – John

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Giving—Sarah

Receiving the People's Gifts

ANTHEM – Whitechapel Ringers

Do Lord, Amen

Traditional Spiritual/arr. Ron Mallory

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication
- Sarah

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

All: God of strength and courage, thank you for sustaining us and calling us to lives of love and service. Bless these gifts and use them to strengthen your church, serve our neighbors, and bring hope to the world. 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!**

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – Glen
Stephanie Baker
Rachael Ross**

**EPISTLE LESSON -Deacon
Ephesians 6: 10-13**

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power; ¹¹ put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹² for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual

forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm.

SERMON – Glen

Grant Us Wisdom

Part 2: "Be Strong"

HYMN

For the Fruits of All Creation #714 Chalice

AR HYD Y NOS verse 1-3

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION– Glen

POSTLUDE – Tracy Qian, organist

Toccata per l'Elevazione

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)