

GRIEF & GLORY

A MUSICAL LENTEN ANTICIPATION



Sunday, February 15, 2026

Gary United Methodist Church

Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 15, 2026, 11:11 a.m.

Prelude

Prelude on ABERYSTWYTH
("Jesus, lover of my soul")
Healey Willan

Mark Edwards, organ

Welcome

Pastor Mary Zajac

Introit

Give Me Jesus[†]
from *Three Gospelized Spirituals*
Negro Spiritual, arr. Donté A. Ford, orch. Stan Spottswood

*Call to Worship

*Passing of the Peace

*Opening Hymn

My Hope Is Built

Hymnal 368

A Musical Lenten Anticipation

Grief & Glory: A Journey through Psalm 118

Festival Choirs and Orchestra of Gary Church and First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton
Kiena Williams, soprano

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*The Tribulation Suite*, M. Roger Holland

I. Nobody Knows the Trouble I See

II. I'm Troubled in Mind

III. Wade in the Water

IV. Soon Ah Will Be Done

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Steal Away[†]

from *Three Gospelized Spirituals*
Negro Spiritual, arr. Donté A. Ford, orch. Stan Spottswood

Pastor Daniel Cochran

Ride On, King Jesus[†]
from *Three Gospelized Spirituals*
Negro Spiritual, arr. Donté A. Ford, orch. Stan Spottswood

Hymnal 94

*Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal 384

*Benediction

March
Henry Purcell

[†]Denotes choral-orchestral world premiere.

Participating in Today's Service

Festival Choirs of Gary Church and First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton

Soprano

Virginia Blackwell
Elaine Cimino
Cindi Copeland
Leigh Ann Gaul
Lynda Goldberg
Charmaine Jones
Kathryn Macabobby
Marilyn McGinn
Katie O'Connor
Melissa Wheaton

Alto

Carol Barnes
Suzanne Freshley
Catherine Hartrim-Lowe
Ann Hein
Janet Mathis
Marcia Vincent
Bobbi Wheatley
Marsha Woodruff

Rev. Dr. Donté Ford
Minister of Music and Worship
First Presbyterian Church

Joshua Velez
Director of Music
Gary Church

Rehearsal Pianists

Hailie Kim, First Presbyterian
Deanna Witkowski, Gary Church

Scripture Readers

Rev. Dwight Stewart
Linda Tresner
Rev. Mary Zajac

Tenor

Dale Atteberry
Ron Austin
Nathan Brown
Brad Burch
Luke Hochstetler
Jerry Juzwiak
Elaine McCluskey
Steve Novy
Tommy Stoffels
Joe Svejda

Bass

Larry Blackburn
Charlie Castino
Mike Clauson
Peter Richey
Rick Vincent
Craig Walters
Doug Zimmer

Festival Orchestra

Jenna Krause, *violin*
Annalynn Budai, *violin*
Meghan Razzini, *viola*
Tim Edwards, *cello*
Crystal Rebene, *double bass and electric bass*
Betsy Cotton, *oboe and English horn*
*Wesley Woodward, *trumpet*
*Bennett Konstans, *trumpet*
Ian McCann, *trumpet*
*Charles Payette, *French horn*
*Dan Sartori, *trombone*
Christopher Helwig, *trombone*
Donté Ford, *percussion*
Hailie Kim, *piano* (The Tribulation Suite)

Joshua Velez, *conductor* (The Tribulation Suite)
and piano (Three Gospelized Spirituals)
Luke Hochstetler, *conductor* (Three Gospelized Spirituals)

*Denotes member of Genuine Brass Ensemble



Kiena Williams, soprano

Brooklyn native Kiena Williams is a passionate and dedicated vocalist, choral conductor, clinician, and educator. A versatile artist, Kiena has captivated audiences domestically and internationally as a featured soloist, chorister, and recording artist, seamlessly navigating opera, concert works, and contemporary collaborations. She is deeply committed to fostering artistic growth and empowering students through functional voice training and the co-creation of culturally competent and safe learning environments.

Kiena currently serves as a Conductor at the Grammy Award-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus and as adjunct Vocal Faculty at The Calhoun, Trinity & Village Community Schools, alongside her work as a freelance conductor and teaching artist throughout New York City. Kiena also contributes as a clinician and guest conductor with the Carnegie Hall Music Educator's Workshop in addition to her work with Elevate Vocal Arts as a Vocal Artist & Mentor.

Kiena Williams is a proud alumna of the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and The Pennsylvania State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Music. Keep in touch at kienawilliams.com

M. Roger Holland, II | Composer, *The Tribulation Suite*

M. Roger Holland II is a Teaching Associate Professor in Music and Religion and Director of The Spirituals Project at the Lamont School of Music, University of Denver. He earned his Doctor of Pastoral Music degree from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. He received his MDiv degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he also served as Artist-in-Residence and director of the Union Gospel Choir for over 13 years.



Union awarded him the 2015 Trailblazers Distinguished Alumni Award (the first for a graduate whose ministry is music), for his contributions to the legacy of African American music. He received a master's (piano performance) from the Manhattan School of Music (New York City) and majored in music education (concentration in piano and voice) at Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ).

Commissioned works include *UBUNTU: I Am Because We Are*; *The Dream and the Dreamer*; *The Tribulation Suite*; *The Call*; *Agnus Dei*; and *Magnificat*. Original music collections include *Building Up the Kingdom* (featuring the single "Worthy God") and his four-volume *Honey from the Rock*. He has played for the Broadway productions of *The Color Purple* and the Tony®-winning *Memphis*. Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, presented Roger with the Pierre Toussaint Medallion for service in November 2016.

Donté A. Ford | Composer, *Three Gospelized Spirituals*



Donté Alexander Ford is a native of Philadelphia, PA, and serves the Wheaton College community as Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Chaplain for Worship Arts.

He is an alumnus of Penn State University (BA), Southern Methodist University (MSM, MM, MDiv), and the University of Arizona (PhD) and is best described as a musician, minister and scholar. At Wheaton, Donté teaches Principles in Music and Worship Ministry, coaches Chapel Bands, oversees the music and worship arts offerings in Chapel worship, and serves as the director of the Worship Arts Certificate.

Donté's many musical talents have afforded him the opportunity to serve as guest clinician/conductor, lead pianist, opera chorister, resident percussionist and Minister of Music. His musical activities also include composing (specifically focusing on arrangements of Christian hymns and Negro Spirituals), and in 2019 he won the Brooklyn Youth Chorus Bass Ensemble composer competition. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Sankofa Chorale, a multi-ethnic choral ensemble that preserves and perpetuates African American Choral music while performing that music alongside choral masterworks of the Western European choral canon.

A Christian minister, Donté is a gifted preacher, holding ordination and ministerial credentials in the Holiness-Pentecostal and Baptist traditions, respectively. Though a life-long Pentecostal, Donté is committed to the diversity of the body of Christ. As a scholar, Donté focuses his efforts on the history and preservation of Black American concert and popular music, church hymnody, congregational song, and the history, theology, and music of African American Pentecostalism. His scholarly work includes lectures on African American choral art forms and contributions to the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology and UM Discipleship Ministries' History of Hymns.

Announcements

Worship: Assisted listening devices and large print hymnals are available by asking an usher. Livestream and recorded worship are available at garychurch.org.

Our sympathy to:

Marge Merriman on the death of her nephew, Timothy Zymanski, on Jan. 26.

The family of Patricia Sullivan. Pat passed away on Jan. 29. Visitation will be on Feb. 21, at Hultgren's Carol Stream location, 565 Randy Rd., 10 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 11:45 a.m.

Pam Keller, Hanna Keller, Dani and Matt Huppert and their family, on the death of their husband and father, Bruce, on Jan. 14. A memorial service will be on Feb. 21, 1 p.m. in Gary's Sanctuary.

Dream of spring! Plants with a Purpose, a fundraiser for Gary's ministries, is now taking orders for Sat., May 2 delivery. Order by Sun., Mar. 15 at garychurch.org, or pick up a paper form in the Commons.

Ash Wednesday: Feb. 18. This marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of repentance and prayer that prepares us for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

- 7-8 a.m. Ashes to Go, College Avenue Train Station
- 9-10 a.m. Ashes to Go, Gary Church Parking Lot
- 5:30 p.m. Family Worship and Activity, Anderson Room
- 7 p.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

Living Fully, Dying Well: Thursdays, starting Feb. 19, 2 p.m. or 7 p.m., Anderson Room, led by Rev. Fred Kelsey. This class is designed to assist in making prayerful preparation for meeting life's most important moments. Register at garychurch.org.

Semimonthly men's breakfast: Second and third Saturdays of the month, 7:30 a.m., Egg'lectic Cafe, 145 N. Hale St., Wheaton. All men are invited. RSVP at garychurch.org.

Fitness Class: Saturdays, Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, 9:30 a.m., Activity Center, led by David Holek, certified personal trainer. In this 30-minute bodyweight fitness class, exercises can be modified for all abilities, fitness levels and ages. Register at garychurch.org.

The God We Can Know: Sundays, Feb. 22-Mar. 29, 10:10 a.m., Anderson Room, led by a team of pastors and biblical scholars. This study will build on Rob Fuquay's *The God We Can Know*, aligning with our Lenten preaching series exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus. Books are available for \$10, but reading is not required to attend the class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*continued*)

Movie and Panel Discussion: Thurs., Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Activity Center. Advocates 4 Justice, a grassroots collective dedicated to empowering our communities, presents *No Other Lands*. This movie shows the alliance between a Palestinian activist and an Israeli journalist. A panel discussion will follow the viewing.

Camp Gary: Fri., Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Gary. Kids will spend the morning playing, crafting, snacking, and hanging out with friends. And if you need it, you'll have access to a quiet workspace stocked with coffee and donuts. Registration is open to the public for preschool 3s-5th grade at garychurch.org.

Cultivating a Resilient Faith in a Turbulent World: Wednesdays, Mar. 4-Apr. 1, 7 p.m., on Zoom, led by Pastor Mary Zajac. Join this Lenten study over Zoom to learn spiritual practices that can serve as our guide-rope through turbulent times. No book needed. Participants will be asked to stay current with the news and engage in a practice during the week. Register at garychurch.org.

Sign up for Chili Cookoff and Auction: Sun., Mar. 15, 5 p.m., Commons (after the musical). Do you think your soup or chili has what it takes to win the *Golden Ladle* trophy or have an item or service to donate? Register by Sun., Mar. 1., at garychurch.org. If you have any questions, contact Dan Lee (dlee@garychurch.org).

Fired Up musical / Chili Cookoff and Auction: Sun., Mar. 15, 4 p.m., Activity Center (musical), 5 p.m., Commons (cookoff and auction). Enjoy the musical and then eat some yummy soups and chilis. Bid on auction items and vote for your favorite soup and chili. Proceeds support this summer's high school mission trip.

