



ST. JOHN'S  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

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Richmond † Texas

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**MARCH 15, 2026**  
**8:30 & 11:00AM**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVE WORSHIP**

You are invited to use this bulletin during our live worship service at 11:00am on Sunday morning. To access our live worship, please [click here](#).

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 23*)

Leader: Some of us are walking in pastures and others of us are walking through valleys.

People: **But we do not walk alone!**

Leader: Things can change quickly and our next steps may appear to be uncertain.

People: **And yet we can trust the One who leads us.**

Leader: We need not fear. We can trust.

All: **Our God is worthy of our praise for both the expected and the unexpected blessings of our journey!**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

*"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"* #158

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our Guide and Friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

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**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;\*  
The third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father

almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\*\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' <sup>5</sup>He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to

Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.'  
<sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.'  
<sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.'  
<sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

### SONG OF REFLECTION

*"Amazing Grace"*

#378

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

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## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS and TITHES

(Thank you for your generosity! To contribute electronically, please see the QR code.)

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

*"Holy is He"*

Chancel Choir

## DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

*John 9:1-25*

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.  
<sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'  
<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.  
<sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.  
<sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'  
<sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,  
<sup>7</sup>saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.  
<sup>8</sup>The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?'  
<sup>9</sup>Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.'  
He kept saying, 'I am the man.'  
<sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?'  
<sup>11</sup>He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.'  
<sup>12</sup>They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'  
<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.  
<sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.  
<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.'  
<sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided.  
<sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.' <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' <sup>25</sup>He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

## SERMON

*"Expect the Unexpected"*

Rev. Richard Luna

## INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

### SONG OF INVITATION

*"Take My Life, and Let It Be"*

#399

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee  
Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands, and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love.  
Take my feet, and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee.  
Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect, and use  
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine;  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is Thine own;  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee

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## SENDING FORTH

### CHORAL RESPONSE

*"I Come to the Cross"*

I come to the cross, seeking mercy and grace,  
I come to the cross, where You died in my place.  
Out of my weakness, and into Your strength,  
Humbly, I come to the cross.

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### GOING FORTH

Blessed by God's love and strengthened by God's  
Grace, let us be the church to the people we are with.  
Amen.

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*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Jennifer Pratorius in celebration of March birthdays.*

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*QR Code provided for your tithes and offerings.*

*Thank you.*

