

Tell Us Something Good: When Grace Catches Us by Surprise

First Sunday of Lent – February 22, 2026

MEDITATION

“The grace of God means something like this: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are. Because the party wouldn’t have been complete without you.” –Frederick Buechner

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

“Adagio”

*Guest Cellist: Christopher Kerins
Music by Samuel Barber*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In a world where hope can feel fragile,

All: We come searching for signs of grace.

L: When joy runs low and spirits grow weary,

All: We come longing to be renewed.

L: At a wedding long ago, when the celebration ran dry,

All: Christ turned water into wine, and abundance flowed again.

L: So come, let us worship the God of surprising grace.

All: Tell us something good, O God. Amen.

Linda Thomas, Deacon

*SONG FOR LENT

“In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful”

In Pew

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Linda Thomas, Deacon

L: God of surprising grace, we come carrying what is heavy, bearing what is uncertain, and longing for what is life-giving. When joy feels thin and hope feels fragile, it seems like the world has run dry. Yet you are the One who turns water into wine, who fills empty places with meaning, who restores joy where we thought it was lost.

All: Open our hearts and help us notice the quiet ways you are at work among us. And when we struggle to see, whisper again the good news our souls long to hear. We pray in the spirit of Christ, the bringer of abundant life. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Black 12

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Coordinator

ANTHEM

“Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing”

Choir

Text: Walter Shirley, Setting: Douglas E. Wagner

SCRIPTURE READING | Psalm 36:5-10, p. 627; John 2:1-11, p. 113

Linda Thomas, Deacon & Scott Burk

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“When Grace Catches Us by Surprise”

Rev. Christina Williams

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

Black 331

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After the pastoral, during the prayers of the people, you are invited to share your joy or concern out loud. All are invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 trespass 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. All are invited to sing “Amen”. (Black 812)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Pie Jesu”

*Guest Singer: Christopher Kerins
Music: Gabriel Faure*

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON OFFERTORY PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Giver of every good gift—you fill us with more grace than we deserve and more love than we can measure. Bless these gifts so that they may bring hope to where hope is thin, joy where joy feels distant, and abundance where there is need. Use them, use us, to be bearers of your good news. In our giving, remind us that your grace is always overflowing. In gratitude and trust, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

Black 459

***BENEDICTION**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“Amazing Grace”

*Choir
Traditional*

POSTLUDE

“The Star of Love” *Guest Singer/Cellist: Christopher Kerins
Words: George Pope Morris, Music: Matthew Emery*

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Reader, Scott Burk; Choir, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Malcolm Donald, Alan King, Chris Polloni, Clifford Moore, Guest Singer/Cellist: Christopher Kerins; Hospitality, Sue Long; Food donation, Janet King

Leading worship today: Rev. Christina Williams, Minister; Stephanie Miles, Music director; Lisa Allen, Co-Church Life Director; Linda Thomas, Deacon

NEW HERE TODAY?

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.*

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk means stand in body or spirit. **Bold text** is spoken in unison.*
 2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for Bible-themed learning through crafts, conversation, and games with Lisa Allen.*
 3. **TAKE TWO** *is an adult faith formation group that meets after worship every other Sunday with Lisa Allen. This Sunday, join Lisa in making a vision board for the coming year.*
 4. **Coffee and Conversation:** *Gather with us after worship to greet friends and meet new ones in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
 5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to Rev. Christina or the Deacon of the day.*
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**The altar flowers are given in memory of Hal King on his birthday
with love from his family.**