

Traditional Worship Service

The Good News is ... So
Good It Catches Us By
Surprise

February 22, 2026

Tell Me Something Good

Length
in mins

5:00 **Prelude**

1:30 **Live Stream Startup**

3:00 **Introit**

Please list artist and title here – Remove item if there is no introit

5:00 **Welcome & Announcements**

1:00 **Call To Worship**

Liturgist: Grace Cahill

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

People: manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

People: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends..

Leader: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

People: Let us worship this good-news God.

4:00 ***God Of Grace And God Of Glory***

#577 UMH, vs. 1-4

1:00 **Unison Prayer**

ALL: Holy Lord, we come to worship today, open our hearts to the surprising ways in which you offer to us your love and your presence. May we begin to understand the wondrous ways that you work in our lives. Give us hearts and spirits to serve you wherever we are. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

3:30 **Special Music**

"Angels From The Realms of Glory/Knowing You," Children's Handbells

5:00 **A Time for Children**

Noelle Allison, Director of Children and Families

Indicate special props, placement and movement if known.

3:00 **Special Music**

"Lord, I Stretch My Hands To You," Chorale

1:00 **Scripture Readings**

John 2:1-11

5:00 **Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

available for liturgist to use or modify from our resource:

Joy-spreading God, we love to imagine you at a wedding, your throat hoarse from laughter, feet tired from dancing, brow damp from the warmth of the day.

We love to imagine that this is how your ministry began – with celebration and joy, with banquet tables and laughter – because we crave more of those moments ourselves.

We live in a world that seems to run out of joy. The news is a rotating blur of heartache. Our hearts carry fear and grief, anxiety and loss.

We find ourselves praying for

[include particular prayers of grief that are pertinent to our community or that week.]

We pray for those who are caught in war-torn areas. For those who are spending their Sundays in a hospital room. For those who push through waves of depression every day, or struggle to manage illness or addiction. [anything else to add].

Holy God, we live in a world that is overflowing with hard news, and we crave a piece of your joy. So on our lowest days, and in our bleakest moments, remind us that your ministry started with a small miracle.

On the longest nights, remind us that we are never alone.

**Length
in mins**

When joy wears thin, remind us that you call us by name.
When hope flickers, remind us that you heard our prayers.
And when the weight of the world feels too heavy, remind us that the heart of the gospel really is good news.
Until that promised day, when we will once again find ourselves dancing until our feet are sore and gathering around the table with our neighbors, we will pray the prayer your son taught us to pray, saying... The Lord's Prayer...

1:00 Offering Our Gifts to The Lord - Breakthrough Prayer

O God, we offer ourselves to you. We are your people and this is your church. Use our gifts and breakthrough in new ways as we seek to love our neighbors and be a beacon of Christ-centered hope to our community. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

4:00 Offertory

"Shall We Gather At The River," Ann Jolly and Lois Books, piano duet

1:00 *Doxology*

USE #95 DURING LENT

20:00 Message

Preacher: Laura Rainwater
Title: The Good News is . . . So Good It Catches Us By Surprise
scripture = Matthew 13:31-32

2:00 Call to and Prayer of Confession

Leader: You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war," or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven."
God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love"
God says, "turn the other cheek."
God's mercy catches us by surprise.
So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.
Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again.
Friends, let us pray:

ALL: Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed – unruly and untamed.
You turn water into wine – surprising and extravagant.
And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?
We know the answer already.
The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.
Forgive our doubt.
Pull us closer into your embrace.
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

1:00 Words of Forgiveness

Leader: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

ALL: of course, of course, of course.

Leader: This is the good news of the gospel.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

3:00 *Freely Freely*

#389 UMH, vs. 1 & 2

1:00 Benediction

to use during this series:

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.

**Length
in mins**

But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking.
For if you won't then who will?
Thanks be to God for this good, good news.
Amen.

2:00 Postlude

64:30
