

Traditional Worship Service

The Good News is ... Great
Love for God and Neighbor

March 1, 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: Rev June Webster

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

Leader: This is good news indeed!

People: Let us worship our compassionate God.

4:00 *I Come With Joy*

#617 UMH, vs. 1-5

1:00 Unison Prayer

God of love, open our hearts today to feel the power of your extravagant love for us. Help us to be free of our fears and prejudices so that we may see your love in action in the lives of others. May we strive to be ready to become your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

3:30 Special Music

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit", Chorale

5:00 A Time for Children

Noelle Allison, Director of Children and Families

Indicate special props, placement and movement if known.

1:00 Scripture Readings

Luke 7:36-50

5:00 Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

available for liturgist to use or modify from our resource:

Jesus of Nazareth,

your love for this world is so strong.

It's like a jar of perfume broken in a crowded room—

it permeates everything it touches.

God, we long to love like that.

We long to love you with the same extravagant abundance

that the woman with the alabaster jar displayed.

However, we often get in our own way.

Holy God, today we pray:

when it comes to our neighbors,

give us eyes to see as you see.

Give us hands to serve as you serve.

Give us arms to hold.

Give us feet to journey alongside.

Give us hearts of compassion, just like yours.

Length in mins

In particular, today we pray for. . .

[Name prayers relevant to the week or the day. You might include prayers for community members needing extra love, or prayers in response to current events.]

God, our love does not stop with our neighbor.

We also long to love you.

So when we pass a field of purple, remind us to say thank you.

When we hear the sound of laughter, remind us that there is good in this world.

When music or birdsong moves our soul, remind us that you are always present with us.

In all of these moments, turn our hearts toward you.

May we be the next ones to love boldly, to sing praise, to say thank you.

With gratitude for the woman and her alabaster jar, we pray together using the words 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**

"We Can Be Kind", Leslie Levey, soloist

1:00 *Doxology*

15:00 **Message**

preacher: Cody Anderson

The Good News is ... Great Love for God and Neighbor

scripture: Matthew 25:35-40

2:00 **Call to and Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed.

ALL: Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

1:00 **Words of Forgiveness**

Leader: Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

ALL: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

2:00 **Song Before Communion**

#618 Let Us Break Bread Together, vs. 1 & 3

7:00 **Communion**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You brought all things into being and called them good.

From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,

Length in mins

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
When you gave him to save us from our sin,
your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry.
When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life,
presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
and exalted him at your right hand.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter,
you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts,
that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced
to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving,
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

3:00 *What Wondrous Love Is This*
#292 UMH, vs. 1-3

1:00 **Benediction**
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.
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,

**Length
in mins**

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

65:30
