

Traditional Worship Service

The Good News is ...
Protection and Care for the
Vulnerable

March 15, 2026

Tell Me Something Good

Prelude

Live Stream Startup

Introit

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

Welcome & Announcements

Call To Worship

Liturgist: Nancy Smith

Leader: God loves the field mouse.
People: God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
Leader: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
People: God loves the child who rocks and claps.
Leader: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
People: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.
Leader: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
People: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.
Leader: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
People: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
Leader: So let us worship this good-news God!
People: Amen.

Tell Me The Stories Of Jesus [Default Arrangement]

#277 UMH, vs. 1-3

Unison Prayer

Almighty God, we are thankful for how you call us and teach us. May we remember our past and grow in compassion. Give us a heart that provides for the needy and upholds the dignity of all people. May we remember to be as generous as you are in providing what we most need. Amen.

Special Music

"Sing Unto The Lord," Chorale

A Time for Children

Noelle Allison, Director of Children and Families
Indicate special props, placement and movement if known.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 19:13-15

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

available for liturgist to use or modify from our resource:

Jesus of Nazareth, you loved without abandon.
You loved your disciples, with their questions and their stumbling mistakes.
You loved the children, with their runny noses and their easy joy.
You loved the widows and the immigrants, with their heartbreak and their dreams for a better tomorrow.
You loved the tax collectors and the outcasts, with their hands open to their neighbors.
You loved like it was easy. And my goodness, do we wish that we were more like that.

So today, we lift up the vulnerable in our community—the ones you loved so quickly.
[Feel free to edit and add onto this list to lift up the vulnerable in your own community, keeping in mind any current events.
Today we pray for the immigrants in our land—for those running from fear, longing to give their children a better life.
Today we pray for single parents, who stretch themselves thin to be all things for the little ones they love.
Today we pray for those living below the poverty line, for those who are unsure where their next meal will come from.

Today we pray for those who live in fear due to the color of their skin, the way that they dress, or the person that they love.
Today we pray for those who are bent over by the weight of depression, anxiety, or addiction.

We could go on and on, God, but we know that you see each of us. So draw near to your children. Wrap your arms around the vulnerable, the weary, the grief-filled. Comfort, O comfort your people.
Wrap your arms around us.

And as you do, we ask that we might be transformed.

As you do, we ask that we might bend toward love and move toward compassion.

As you do, we ask that you might soften our hearts.

Until your promised day, when all are cared for and seen, this will be our prayer.

In hope, we now join our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, saying. . . The Lord's Prayer....

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

Offertory

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," Jennifer Arnold, Cello

Doxology [Default Arrangement]

Message

preacher: Laura Rainwater

The Good News is ... Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

scripture: Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Confession and Words of Forgiveness

Leader: Family of Faith,

every week we pray the Prayer of Confession,

because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.

Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.

Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.

So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.

Friends, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

Leader: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

ALL: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

All: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

Leader: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

All: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Leader: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

All: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Leader: Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine."

All: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,

we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

Leader: May this good news change our lives!

All: Amen.

Standing on the Promises [hymn]

#374 UMH, vs. 1, 2, 4

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,

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.

Postlude

"The Lord Bless You And Keep You," Vocal Quartet
