

Traditional Worship Service

The Good News is ... Rooted
in Justice, Mercy and
Faithfulness

March 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: John Huffhaker

Leader: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

People: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Leader: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

People: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Leader: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

People: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Leader: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

People: This is God's house.

Leader: You can make yourself at home here.

People: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

4:00 *Lord Speak To Me*

#463 UMH, vs. 1-5

1:00 Unison Prayer

Holy Lord,

You are the God of justice, mercy, and faithfulness. We come before You today, acknowledging that we often neglect the true heart of worship. Give us the courage to live authentically, with sincerity and truth in our hearts, pleasing You in all things. May our faith be a lived message of Your Good News, bringing glory to Your name.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

3:30 Special Music

"Search Me, On God," 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

John 8:2-11

5:00 Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

available for liturgist to use or modify from our resource:

Loving God,

you know all of us.

You know our fears and our dreams,

our hopes and our longings,

our grief and our joy.

You know the words that are on our tongue before we can even say them,
so today we come to you unfiltered.

Today, we bring you our full honesty,

trusting that you meet us here with grace and love.

Length in mins

Holy God, we admit that mercy, justice, and faithfulness often get tangled up in our minds. We want to do the right thing, which feels like justice. However, sometimes we go about justice with a blunt sword, failing to practice mercy. We want to be merciful, but our anger and hurt can get in the way. Too often, we find ourselves casting stones. We want to be righteous, but we often forget that righteousness must impact our relationships, not only our words or our actions.

God, we admit that mercy, justice, and faithfulness often get tangled up in our minds. So like Jesus did with the crowds that day, help us to root ourselves in the best of these practices. Untangle these threads of our faith and show us how to hold them all.

Spark a fire in our hearts for justice—
justice for the oppressed,
justice for the overlooked,
justice for our neighbors,
justice for those not given a voice.

Spark a fire in our hearts for mercy—
mercy for the sinful, which is all of us,
mercy for the hurt,
mercy for the ones who are doing their best with what they have.

And spark a fire in our hearts for righteousness.
Call us up to a higher moral ground.
Remind us that our faith invites us to love as you love,
and to forgive as you forgive.
Show us how to put down our stones.
Show us how to forgive ourselves for our own wrong.
Show us how to empathize with the other, putting ourselves in their shoes.

If we can do that, then maybe there will be a day when there is less stone throwing, less mob building, less violence toward our neighbor. Maybe there will be a day when all can gather at the table. Maybe there will be a day when we can all break bread together. Maybe there will be a day when justice, mercy, and righteousness feel like a mighty flowing stream. Until that day, we will continue to look for your words in the dirt. We will continue to listen for your deep truth. Until that promised day, we will continue to bring you our unfiltered honesty. Until that promised day, we will continue to pray for our neighbor. Today, we pray for. . . [Name the prayer concerns of your community.]. Loving God, set a fire in our hearts for justice, mercy, and righteousness. And as you do, we will join our voices together to pray 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**

"Beneath The Cross Of Jesus," Clayton Tong & Kyle Snoich

1:00 *Doxology*

20:00 **Message**

preacher: Cody Anderson
The Good News is ... Rooted in Justice, Mercy & Faithfulness
Matthew 23: 23

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

Leader: Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone."
Friends, none of us are without sin.
None of us get it right all the time.
None of us can get by without God's grace.
In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth.
We put down our stones
and we turn to God for forgiveness.
Join me in this act of transformation.
Let us pray:

ALL: Holy God,
we love to live our lives by the rules.

**Length
in mins**

We love clear answers.
We love right and wrong.
We love swift justice.
We love to pick up stones,
but you show us another way.
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
You prioritize mercy over legality.
You prioritize people over tradition.
You prioritize love over everything.
Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

1:00 Words of Forgiveness

Leader: Church family,
Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.
Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,
and the same can be said for us.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

ALL: Our God is a God of mercy.
Our God is a God of compassion.
Our God is a God of grace.
We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.
Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.
Amen.

3:00 *Pass It On*
#572 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,
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

61:30