

Guided by the Promise

John 3: 1 – 17

ICE-BREAKERS

- 1 What is something you are curious about? What do you find yourself thinking about all the time?
- 2 If you could master any subject, what would it be? Why?

SERMON BASED

- 1 How do you connect with Nicodemus? In what ways are you similar to Nicodemus? How are you different from Nicodemus?
- 2 How would you describe the “born anew” or “born from above” to someone who is new to the world of Christianity?

BEYOND THE TEXT

- 1 Is there an area of your life where you feel the “wind” of the Spirit moving, even if you don’t fully understand where it is leading? Is it a breeze or a gale type wind?
- 2 As you read **John 3: 1 – 17**, what is the most important point to you right now?



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Renewed in Mercy

MARCH 1ST 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

YOUTH-LED & COMMUNION SUNDAY

10:30 AM

Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you have been, you matter to God and to us. *You belong here!* We pray your experience in our Worship today will be one that blesses you and uplifts your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously

ORDER of WORSHIP

Romans 8:1 (NRSV)

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR + THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Grace Spieles

PRELUDE *Crown Him With Many Crowns* | arr. Cindy Berry

+ CALL TO WORSHIP Meah Johnson

Leader: Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

People: We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.

Leader: Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

People: We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.

Leader: Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

People: We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.

Leader: Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

People: We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow.

+ OPENING PRAYER Aiden Bockrath

Infinite Love, heart of all life, you loved this word into being with such love as to birth yourself among us, Love begotten as the Beloved. Your presence does not separate but unites; love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save. Trusting this, we know we are loved, never rejected. Thanks be to God! Amen.

+ HYMN #378 *Amazing Grace* | UMH

TIME OF GREETING

CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN Ella Pruden and Aubrey Osborn

CHORAL ANTHEM Chancel Choir

God So Loved the World | arr. John Stainer

Happy 95th birthday, Evelyn Brown, on March 2nd

+ SCRIPTURE John 3: 1 – 17 Noah Krites

SERIES MESSAGE *Guided by the Promise* Jana Thompson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Lillie Best

Leader: We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

People: Loving God, help us. When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction rather than long-term healing, help us. Merciful God, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have neglected the cries of others, forgive us. Powerful God, heal us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us. Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and embrace your call in Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Jana Thompson

OFFERTORY *Reflections on the Spirit* | arr. Joel Raney

+ DOXOLOGY #98 *To God Be the Glory* | UMH

HOLY COMMUNION Leah Krites

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Place offerings in the wooden plates coming through the Pews, during the Offering song.



+ SPOKEN BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Lead On, O King Eternal* | arr. Joshua Evanovich

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace. Thank you for worshipping with us, and for your continued generosity and support.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN...



LEADERS OF TODAY'S WORSHIP

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| USHERS | PASTOR |
| NEIL SHAFFER | CHRISTIAN TAYLOR |
| DAVE LICHTLE, ASST. | DIRECTOR OF MUSIC |
| SCREEN CREATORS | SCOTT TURNER |
| MARY ANN FALK | WORSHIP LEADER |
| JEREMY LAUKHUF | JEREMY LAUKHUF |
| MELODY TAYLOR | MESSAGE |
| VIDEOGRAPHER | JANA THOMPSON |
| DAVE THOMPSON | CHILDREN'S CHAT |
| PROJECTIONIST | YOUTH |
| NAOMI WHITE | ACOLYTES |
| SOUND ENGINEER | CECI STAAS |
| JUSTIN SIEFKER | ANNA STOLLER |