

Lent 5 / Intergenerational Worship

March 22, 2026

Prelude

***Hymn: Will you come and follow me**

No. 634

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?
2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We come to worship as those who make mistakes and sometimes serious ones.

We come to worship as those who sometimes carry regret but also blame for others and for circumstances beyond ourselves.

We come to worship to open our hearts to what it means to accept accountability and find our way toward making things right.

We come to worship in search of forgiveness and to open our hearts to forgive others as much as ourselves.

Come to us as we worship you this hour, O God, and help us see more clearly into ourselves and into the situations of our lives. Give us the courage for honesty and the grace to face the imperfection in others as much as in ourselves.

ALL: Let us worship God, together!

***Hymn: Lord, the light of your love is shining**

No. 376

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.

**REFRAIN: Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!**

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me (**REFRAIN**)

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me (**REFRAIN**)

Prayer of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven;**

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil;

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you all;

And also with you.

Intergenerational Children's Time

(Children are invited to join in activities at the back of the sanctuary)

Special Music: Lean on me

Bill Withers

*Sometimes in our lives we all have pain
We all have sorrow
But if we are wise
We know that there's always tomorrow*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on*

*Please swallow your pride
If I have things you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show*

*You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend
I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need
Somebody to lean on*

*You just call on me brother, when you need a hand
We all need somebody to lean on
I just might have a problem that you'll understand
We all need somebody to lean on*

*If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry*

*I'm right up the road
I'll share your load*

*If you just call me (call me)
If you need a friend (call me) call me uh huh (call me) if you need a friend (call me)
If you ever need a friend (call me)
Call me (call me) call me (call me) call me
(Call me) call me (call me) if you need a friend
(Call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me) call me (call me)*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 3-5 (p. 31)

Touba Katebi

Luke 22: 54-62 (p. 87)

John 21: 15-19 (p. 116)

INTRO: Our first reading is taken from Matthew 27: 3-5. Judas has betrayed Jesus for some money. As one of Jesus' disciples he knew where Jesus would be after dark when no one else was around, leading the authorities to find Jesus and arrest him. But seeing what happens to Jesus he has deep regret. He wants to take it all back but he can't. Tragically for him, he sees no way out of his guilty predicament. Listen:

Matthew 27: 3-5

³When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. ⁴He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. Amen.

INTRO: Our second reading is taken from Luke 22: 54-62. Peter has made bold and courageous claims about himself standing by Jesus whatever happens. And yet, when Jesus is being questioned by the

authorities Peter becomes so afraid that he denies that he even knows Jesus. Here's what happens. Listen:

Luke 22: 54-62

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵ When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. ⁵⁶ Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" ⁵⁹ Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly. Amen.

INTRO: Our final reading is taken from John 21: 15-19. Unlike Judas, Peter's betrayal is not the end for Peter. He is given another chance. But he must also face his accountability and his need for forgiveness. Peter denied he knew Jesus 3 times. Jesus now questions Peter 3 times. How does Peter respond? Listen:

John 21: 15-19

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him

the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” Amen.

We are listening, O God;
Speak to us!

Sermon: FORGIVENESS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Dr. Harris

Special Music: Sir Duke

Stevie Wonder

Music is a world within itself

With a language we all understand

With an equal opportunity

For all to sing, dance and clap their hands

But just because a record has a groove

Don't make it in the groove

But you can tell right away at letter A

When the people start to move

They can feel it all over

But they can feel it all over people

They can feel it all over

They can feel it all over people, no, yeah

Music knows that it is and always will

Be one of the things that life just won't quit

But here are some of music's pioneers

That time will not allow us to forget now

For there's Basie, Miller, Satchmo
And the king of all, Sir Duke
And with a voice like Ella's ringing out
There's no way the band could lose

You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people
You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people

You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people
You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over, yeah go

You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people
You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people

You can feel it all over
You can feel it all over people
You can feel it all over
I can feel it all, all, all-all-all over now people

Can't you feel it all over?
Come on, let's feel it all over people
You can feel it all over
Everybody all over people, go

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

***Hymn: May the God of Hope go with us**
(Sung three times)

No. 726

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all.
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Benediction

***Threefold Amen**

Postlude

**Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

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***We invite you to join us for refreshments and fellowship in our adjacent
hall after the service.***

All are welcome!

~

OUR PURPOSE AS A CHURCH:

**To become the hands, feet, voice and heart of Christ for each other and in the
world.**



Minister

The Rev. Dr. Harris Athanasiadis, hathan1964@hotmail.com

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Live Stream Tech & Custodian

Kome Abel

Coming Events

Sunday, March 22

Lent 5 / Intergenerational Worship
Nowruz Celebration after worship

Monday, March 23

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Tuesday, March 24

Book Club: "How to Read a Book:
A Novel" by Monica Wood, 7:30pm
via zoom

Saturday, March 28

Palm Cross Making & Cookie
Decorating, 1pm

Sunday, March 29

Palm Sunday

Monday, March 30

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service of
Prayer, Music & Holy Communion,
7:30pm

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service of Meditation
on The Seven Last Words of Jesus
from the Cross, 10:30am

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday – Service of Praise
and Proclamation of the
Resurrection, 10:30am

Friday, April 10

Youth Group, 7-9pm

Sunday, April 12

Easter 2 Sunday

Monday, April 13

Dance Fitness, 10:00am

Wednesday, April 15

New Book Study begins:
"Surrender to Love", 7:30pm in
person and online

Sunday, April 19

Easter 3 Sunday
Lunch & Learn Presentation, 12pm



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"Discover the vitality of faith"