



March 15, 2026
Sunday Gathering
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages, and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

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-PRELUDE-

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Brenda Gardiner

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-WELCOME-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Wilderness Wandering People"

WE ARE A WILDERNESS WANDERING PEOPLE
ON A JOURNEY OF THE SOUL.
MAY WE FIND OUR DESTINATION
IN OUR LONGING TO BE WHOLE.
OUR HOLY GOD IS CALLING TO US.
WITH JESUS BY OUR SIDE
MAY COMPASSION BE OUR COMPASS;
MAY THE SPIRIT BE OUR GUIDE.

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-OPENING PRAYER-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

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-CALL TO WORSHIP-

I'm going on a journey
TO FIND MY TRUEST SELF,

to take the things that weigh me down
AND PUT THEM ON THE SHELF.

I'm going on a journey
TO LAUGH, AND LEARN, AND PRAY.

I'm going on a journey
AND LOVE WILL LEAD THE WAY.

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-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"He Leadeth Me"

YOU'RE LEADING ME: O BLESSED THOUGHT!
O WORDS WITH HEAVENLY COMFORT FRAUGHT!
WHATE'ER I DO, WHERE'ER I BE,
STILL, IT'S YOUR HAND THAT'S LEADING ME.

YOU'RE LEADING ME, YOU'RE LEADING ME;
BY YOUR OWN HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME:
YOUR FAITHFUL FOLLOWER I WOULD BE,
FOR BY YOUR HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME.

SOMETIMES MID SCENES OF DEEPEST GLOOM,
SOMETIMES WHERE EDEN'S FLOWERS BLOOM,
BY WATERS CALM, O'ER TROUBLED SEA,
STILL, IT'S YOUR HAND THAT'S LEADING ME.

YOU'RE LEADING ME, YOU'RE LEADING ME;
BY YOUR OWN HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME:
YOUR FAITHFUL FOLLOWER I WOULD BE,
FOR BY YOUR HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME.

AND WHEN MY TASK ON EARTH IS DONE,
WHEN, BY YOUR GRACE, THE VICTORY'S WON,
EVEN IN DEATH'S FACE I WILL NOT FLEE,
SINCE YOU ARE ALWAYS LEADING ME.

YOU'RE LEADING ME, YOU'RE LEADING ME;
BY YOUR OWN HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME:
YOUR FAITHFUL FOLLOWER I WOULD BE,
FOR BY YOUR HAND YOU'RE LEADING ME.

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-SCRIPTURE-

Luke 15:11-32 (MSG)

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." ' So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him.

He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

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-THE MESSAGE-

"The Way Home"

Kenny Bishop

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"God Comes to Us"

GOD COMES TO US ON WINTER NIGHT,
IN BABY'S BREATH, BY FIRELIGHT,
GOD COMES TO US ON A STAR.
GOD COMES TO US AMIDST OUR FEARS,
UNspoken JOYS, UNENDING TEARS,
GOD COMES TO US WHERE WE ARE.

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-SHARNG JOYS & CONCERNS-

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-PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"As We Gather At Your Table"

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE,
AS WE LISTEN TO YOUR WORD,
HELP US KNOW, O GOD, YOUR PRESENCE;
LET OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE STIRRED.
NOURISH US WITH SACRED STORY
TILL WE CLAIM IT AS OUR OWN;
TEACH US THROUGH THIS HOLY BANQUET
HOW TO MAKE LOVE'S VICTORY KNOWN.

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-INVITATION TO COMMUNION-

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-COMMUNION MEDITATION-

"We've Come This Far By Faith/Ours the Journey"

Brenda Gardiner

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-IN GRATITUDE-

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-OFFERING-

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-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

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-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

O LOVE THAT WILL NOT LET ME GO,
I REST MY WEARY SOUL IN YOU;
I GIVE YOU BACK THE LIFE I OWE,
THAT IN YOUR OCEAN DEPTHS ITS FLOW
MAY RICHER, FULLER BE.

O LIGHT THAT FOLLOWS ALL MY WAY,
I YIELD MY FLICK'RING TORCH TO YOU;
MY HEART RESTORES ITS BORROWED RAY,
THAT IN YOUR SUNSHINE'S BLAZE ITS DAY
MAY BRIGHTER, FAIRER BE.

O JOY THAT SEEKS ME THROUGH MY PAIN,
I CANNOT CLOSE MY HEART TO YOU;
I TRACE THE RAINBOW THRU' THE RAIN
AND FEEL THE PROMISE IS NOT VAIN
THAT MORN SHALL TEARLESS BE.

O CROSS THAT LIFTS MY WEARY HEAD,
I DARE NOT ASK TO FLY FROM YOU;
I LAY IN DUST LIFE'S GLORY DEAD,
AND FROM THE GROUND THERE BLOSSOMS RED
LIFE THAT SHALL ENDLESS BE.

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-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

We will follow on The Way.
WE WILL FOLLOW ON THE WAY.
The Creator God fills us with breath
inviting us to this journey called Life.
WE WILL FOLLOW ON THE WAY.

Jesus, our Guide, shows us what it means
to make a new way with Love.
WE WILL FOLLOW ON THE WAY.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with courage and compassion for all we meet.
WE WILL FOLLOW ON THE WAY.

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