



Renewed in Ministry:  
Guided by the Promise  
March 1, 2026

Scan to check out our website.



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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kerry Foote

WELCOMING OF GUESTS

PASSING THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

*Liturgist: 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.*

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

*Liturgist: 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.*

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

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

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

*Liturgist: 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.*

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

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness (v. 1-4)*

TFWS #2120

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**A Lenten Affirmation**

Liturgist

**I believe in God the Creator, who made me and all things, who set me on my path in this world.**

**I believe in God the Savior, who is one with the Creator, who rescued me and all creation from the depredations of our violations against God and creation. This man, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, walked a path through this world, taking on human form having been born of a woman through the power of the Holy Spirit. He lived and worked in this world among people just like me. He walked God's path to death on a cross, and rose from the dead to open our pathway to eternal life.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, my counselor and guide, who is one with the Creator and the Christ, who through the body and blood of Jesus brings me into communion with all people, past, present and future; who calls me to walk a sacred way of life through this world, caring for creation and the people I meet on the way, loving them, helping them, welcoming them without prejudice, being God's hands and feet in the world. Amen**

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 12:1-4 NKJV

Liturgist

12 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

*Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

**Dear God, I know You sent Jesus to die on the cross to save us. I pray that each and every one here today will take hold of the one thing that can save--Jesus, our Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

GOSPEL READING John 3:1-17 NKJV

Liturgist

3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? <sup>11</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

*Liturgist: This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

MISSION MOMENT

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Pastor

*Prayer cards are on the information table. If you have a prayer request that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect them during the hymn and pray over cards at the chancel rail.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (v. 1-3)

UMH # 521

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON

Pastor

Title: Renewed in Mercy

Theme: Guided by the Promise

Main Idea: This Sunday, the gospel reading from John 3 is one that many people know by heart. Its familiarity is a comfort, yet we must not let comfort become complacency.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Faithful God, you invite us to trust beyond our understanding and lead us with grace. As Nicodemus learned, your love is a gift. We offer these gifts as signs of faith, hope, and gratitude—use them to spread your love in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings* UMH #95

HOLY COMMUNION See insert.

\*HYMN OF CELEBRATION *The Summons (v. 1-5)* TFWS #2130

\*COMMISION / BENEDICTION Pastor

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God's steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead...and all of God's children said...**Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Love and Fellowship* See screen

POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand as you are able*