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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Louis Allison, Tech Director  
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

March 08, 2026

9:45 AM

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**On the Way: Wandering Hearts and Shared Valleys**  
**Wandering Heart: Praise the Mount<sup>1</sup>**

*Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Additionally, after the children's message, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME**

**LENTEN POEM<sup>2</sup>**

*Praise the Mount*

by Rev. Sarah Speed

**PRELUDE**

*Praise to the Living God*

by Elvey

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: If you ask the sky who God is,

**C: the sky will tell you of God's reach.**

L: If you ask the day who God is,

**C: the sun will tell you of God's warmth.**

L: If you ask the night who God is,

**C: the moon will tell you of God's comfort.**

L: "The heavens are telling the glory of God" Are you listening?

**C: We are listening! We will sing of God's glory.**

L: Let us worship Holy God.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

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Piano 

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reign - ing
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and de - fend thee;
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store thee,
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

7



O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!  
 bear thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.  
 fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be - fore thee.  
 All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

13



All ye who hear,	now to His tem - ple draw near;	join me in
God's care en - folds	all, whose true good he up - holds.	Hast thou not
Pon - der a - new	what the Al - mighty can do,	who with his
Then to thy need	God as mother doth speed,	spreading the
Let the A - men	sound from His peo - ple a - gain;	glad - ly for -

19



glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 known his sus - tain - ing?  
 love doth be - friend thee.  
 wings of grace o'er thee.  
 - ev - er a - dore Him.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

L: In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?”

Peter said, “You are the Messiah.”

Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper?

We’ll never know. The text doesn’t provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening.

So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy God,

**C: Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

**Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in. Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

**We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.**

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P: Whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. We all are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence. Amen.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

HYMN OF TURNING NO. 459 (black hymnal, v. 3) *Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*

**ALL SING: O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Passport Question: *What do I believe about God right now?*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: Before we hear God's Word for us this day, let us join in prayer to truly hear what God has to say to us this day,

L: Holy Word,

**C: For generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God." For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray, amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 16:13-20 (CEB)*

## SERMON

Passport Question: *If I had to name what I believe right now, what would I say?*

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Jesus asked the disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?" Church, what do you say? I invite you to stand as comfortable to profess our faith.

**C: Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name. Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Like Peter, we say, "Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God."**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Here at the Peak

HAMBURG 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Lowell Mason, 1824



Here at the peak I \_\_\_ clear - ly \_\_\_ see  
 Here I pro - claim the \_\_\_ truths I \_\_\_ know  
 Here my Cre - a - tor \_\_\_ stands en - fleshed  
 Here at the peak you \_\_\_ clear - ly \_\_\_ name



All of the pie - ces \_\_\_ you've laid \_\_\_ out  
 Be - yond the know - ledge of this \_\_\_ world  
 In - fin - ite glo - ry \_\_\_ here con - tained  
 Who you cre - a - ted \_\_\_ me to \_\_\_ be



And in this brief though time - less \_\_\_ peace  
 Truths plant - ed deep with - in my \_\_\_ bones  
 Hum - ble and rug - ged, \_\_\_ sim - ply \_\_\_ dressed  
 I - den - ti - fied not \_\_\_ by my \_\_\_ shame



Such clar - i - ty oc - cludes my \_\_\_ doubts  
 Brought to the light as gold un - earthened  
 Sav - ior of all on earth to \_\_\_ reign  
 But by the gifts you gave to \_\_\_ me

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\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

by Franz & Liebergen

## TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

*Beautiful Savior*

by Seiss

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

**C: you draw our wandering hearts close and teach us your steadfast ways. Bless these gifts we offer today. Use them to seek the lost, to feed the hungry, to bring hope to deep waters, and to remind the world that your love never stops pursuing us. With gratitude we give and receive. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 77 UM HYMNAL (see next page)

*How Great Thou Art*



\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# How Great Thou Art

Stuart H. Kine, 1953

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Piano 

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome won - der con-sid - er  
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan - der, and hear the  
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me

4



all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from lof - ty moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

7



thun - der thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played. Then sings my  
gran - deur and hear the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
- ra - tion and there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art;

10



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

14



soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

P: Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Let All Things Now Living*

by Davis

<sup>1</sup>The Liturgy is written by and adapted from the writings of Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

<sup>2</sup>Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing the worship service with their talents this morning!

**Welcome Team Members**— Cindy & Rick Hogentogler

**Liturgist**— Tori Everhart

**Poem Reader**—Stella Fletcher

**Tech Team**— Louis Allison, Ron Miles, Eloise Rhinehart

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.