



"We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep" by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Inspired by the Gospel of John's celebratory beginning.

When it comes time to write my obituary for the local paper, please do not start with my résumé. Do not start with my career or my worldly accomplishments (however small they may be). Do not take up space writing about my alma mater or outlining the entire family tree (we know who we are). Instead, spend your precious little word count on how beautiful it all was. Write about the dinner parties and the fireside chats. Write about the evenings we spent on the front stoop counting fireflies. Write about summers in the mountains and the garden that we grew. Write about the seasons we cried out to God, and the prayers that God answered. Write about the nights we danced, and the days we laughed. When it comes time to tell the story of my life, please take a lesson from the Gospel of John, and start with a wedding. Start with a miracle. Start with the fact that all of it held joy.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

BRINGING THE LIGHT

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

*SONG OF PRAISE

There in God's Garden

Hymnal, No. 226

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Friends, let us pray:

**Loving God,
somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be
faithful,
we have to be serious.**

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and
untamed.**

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.*

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Dear Lord and Father of Mankind Hymnal, No. 169v1

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Samuel McCann

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

ANTHEM Wondrous Love Arranged by George Lynn

SCRIPTURE READING Page No. 795

Matthew 13:31-32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:1-11

Page No. 863

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Good News Is...

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

In a Neat and Tidy Garden

Bulletin p. 7

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,**

**for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Give Thanks

Hymnal, No. 647

Give thanks with a grateful heart;
give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!" (Repeat)

Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*SENDING SONG

The Glory of These Forty Days

Hymnal, No. 165

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Short Prelude in C Minor, BWV 999

J. S. Bach

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for March 1 Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9.

The Food & Shelter items for February are easy open soup (pull tab) and cold weather accessories (hats, gloves, hot hands and socks). **Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

In a Neat and Tidy Garden

ALL THE WAY 8.7.8.7 D ("All the Way My Savior Leads Me")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Robert Lowry (1875)



In a neat and ti - dy gar - den grows a se - cret ti - ny seed
Green and ten - der leaves I har - vest from the mus - tard grow - ing wild
O - ther gar - den - ers may strug - gle and pre - tend they have con - trol



There a - mong the plan - ted bar - ley will e - merge a shock - ing weed
To en - rich and spice my dish - es that were un - til now too mild
O - ver land that God cre - a - ted but I'll tell you what I know:



Grow - ing quick - ly through the so - il to break forth in va - cant spot
Un - ex - pec - ted and sur - pris - ing, un - con - trolled by hu - man hand
I am not the Mas - ter Gar - dener, just a stew - ard of this place



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!
See the reign of God is grow - ing, ta - king root through - out the land!
God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!



What a joy when I dis - cov - er God has plan - ted in my plot!
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God has seed - ed ev - ery a - cre with sur - pris - ing, wi - ld grace!