



"Scarce Abundance" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

*Hannah Garrity*

# Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Surely, This Must Be It*

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. "*What The World Needs Now is Love*" comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings.

You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too.

And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, *What a holy moment it all was.* Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we can create it together.

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

PRELUDE                      Chorale Prelude on "Ich ruf zu dir" BWV 639                      J. S. Bach

## BRINGING THE LIGHT

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,

**settle into this space.**

**We have good news to share.**

If you need a word of hope,

**then trust us when we say,**

**there is hope enough to go around.**

If you need a glimmer of joy,

**then you're in luck!**

**We have resilient joy abounding.**

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

**then know that this is God's house.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.**

**Let us worship our with-us God!**

\*SONG OF PRAISE                      Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing                      Hymnal, No. 475

### \*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Join me in prayer:

**Prayer of confession Holy God,**

**with you the impossible is possible.**

**5,000 can be fed.**

**The blind can see.**

**The hopeless can find hope.**

**With you the impossible is possible,**

**but we are quick to forget that.**

**We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.**

**We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.**

**We forget that you are always with us.**

**Forgive our small-minded ways.**

**Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.**

**But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

*(Time for silent reflection)*



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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Hymnal, No. 182

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*POSTLUDE

Prelude in E Minor, BWV 941

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 15: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

The Food & Shelter items for March are reusable water bottles and ready to eat foods.  
**Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

# Human Minds Just Can't Imagine

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring  
God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts  
Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven  
too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to  
-ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,  
an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents  
fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low  
will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -  
each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world  
-er in the work you've gi - ven us to do  
pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

## **Scarce Abundance**

**by Hannah Garrity**

**Inspired by Mark 6:32-44**

**18"x18" Paper lace with watercolor**

In this account from Mark, Jesus had compassion.<sup>11</sup> This word, *splagchnizomai* in Greek, comes from the root *splagchnon* (meaning "bowels") which has a sense of a visceral, gut-level form of compassion. It intrigues me that this deep, embodied compassion prompted Jesus to teach.

Leading up to this moment, Jesus is trying to get away, to rest. His disciples row him toward the people; however, he is compelled by compassion to teach. As he is teaching, I imagine the crowd turning to one another—What did he say?—repeating his words, passing them along.

In this artwork, the elements of the story are framed in a stained glass window design. Centered, the people gather in circles, passing the scarcely abundant food to one another. Waves encircle the crowd, representing the twelve disciples. The outer architectural elements portray the twelve baskets full of pieces of bread and fish—a representation of abundance from scarcity, powered by collective belief.

Jesus did not have a microphone. It was the people in the front who passed the still, small voice of God back to those behind them. It was the people in the front who passed more than enough food back to those who were hungry. In our propaganda-filled global information system, we must remember: God is not holding the mic. God is present in the still, small voice and in the smallest offerings, multiplying one by one. The message, the compassion, the corners of bread, and the pieces of fish all return in abundance.

—Hannah Garrity

### **Look**

In the artwork, waves represent the twelve disciples.

Why do you think the artist rendered the disciples this way?