



February 22, 2026 – Livestream
First Sunday of Lent

GATHERING

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Moffett

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Arnold B. Sherman
Cathedral Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I appeal to you, kindred in Christ, by the mercies of God
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

People: This is our spiritual worship.

Leader: Delight in the Lord and rejoice!

People: Shout for joy, all who are upright in heart!

*OPENING HYMN #540

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

***I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.***

***I love thy church, O God! Her walls before thee stand
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.***

***For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend,
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.***

***Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways,
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.***

***Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.***

CAROLERS

Traditional Spiritual

arr. M. Hayes

Denise Page Caraher, director; James Caraher, piano

Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho

Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, and the walls came tumblin' down.

You may talk about your man of Gideon, You may talk about your man of Saul,
There's none like good ol' Joshua at the Battle of Jericho.

Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho....

Up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with a spear in hand,
"Go, blow those rams' horns," Joshua cried, "For the battle is in my hand."

Then the lamb, ram, sheep horns began to blow, the trumpets began to sound.
Joshua commanded the children to shout, and the walls came tumblin' down.
Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho...

Oh, Joshua, Jericho! Jericho!
Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, and the walls came tumblin' down,
And the walls came tumblin' down, and the walls, came, tumblin', down! Walls came tumblin' down!

OPENING PRAYER

**Faithful and Loving God,
who led Jesus through the desert trials,
lead us through these days of Lent.
Deepen our faith, raise our hope, and widen our love
through our devotion to Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANTHEM

All Things New

E. Hagenberg

Light after darkness, gain after loss, Strength after weakness, crown after cross;
Sweet after bitter, hope after fears, Home after wand'ring, praise after tears.
Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, God is making all things new,
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. God is making all things new.

Sight after myst'ry, sun after rain, Joy after sorrow, peace after pain;
Near after distant, gleam after gloom, Love after loneliness, life after tomb.
Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end, God is making all things new,
Springs of living water shall wash away each tear. God is making all things new.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE #766

Psalm 32

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**People: Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**People: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Leader: I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**People: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Leader: Therefore let those who are godly offer prayer to you;

People: at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

Leader: You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you encompass me with deliverance.

**People: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Leader: Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,

**People: Many are the pangs of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous;

People: shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

T.A. Inskeep

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²² Someday, I, the Lord, will cut a tender twig from the top of a cedar tree,
then plant it on the peak of Israel's tallest mountain,

²³ where it will grow strong branches and produce large fruit.

All kinds of birds will find shelter under the tree,
and they will rest in the shade of its branches.

²⁴ Every tree in the forest will know that I, the Lord,
can bring down tall trees and help short ones grow.

I dry up green trees and make dry ones green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will keep my word.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAYER #451

Be Thou My Vision

***Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.***

***Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus proclaimed, "The time has come and the Kingdom of God is drawing near;
repent and believe the good news." Let us prepare to receive this good news
by confessing our sins before God and one another:

People: Jesus showed us visions of hope,

but we were blinded by sin and despair.

Forgive us for choosing a comfortable darkness over the risk of faith.

Reset our desires to seek your reign of love above all else.

Revive our minds to dream new dreams of your realm of peace.

And renew our strength to act boldly to do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Leader: The great God of heaven has won the victory
and opened the eyes of our hearts to the joys of heaven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Brandon Wallace

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

MUSICAL RESPONSE #2277

Lord, have Mercy

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

T. Waldrop
Cathedral Ringers

*LENTEN DOXOLOGY

***Praise God throughout these forty days.
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.***

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Turn to Hope, Part One

Darren Cushman Wood

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #730

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

***O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power;
come with thy timeless judgment now to match our present hour.***

***Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.***

***Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.***

***Bring to our world of strife thy sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more, and desolation cease.***

***O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set thy judgments on the earth.***

*THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

I Love thy Kingdom, Lord

arr. E. Childs

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Upcoming Events:

UWF Pie Sales, Today

Family Movie Night, Tonight, 4:30 pm, Youth Room

LGBTQ+ Fellowship at the AMP, February 24, 6:00pm

Lenten Communion Service, Wednesdays, 7:30am

Book Exchange, March 8, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Immigration and the Legal System, March 8, 9:45am Fellowship Hall

Youth Lenten Retreat, March 13-15, Teter Farms, Noblesville

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Sermons are now available on Spotify.

Today's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood

Senior Pastor

Jill Moffett

Pastor of Community Formation

Brandon Wallace

Minister of Christian Education

Eric Russell

Audio Visual

Kathleen Hacker

Interim Director of Music

Heather Hinton

Organist