

*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All  
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

1 MARCH 2026 – 10:30 AM  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE *There Is No Greater Love* Marty Symes/Isham Jones  
JAZZ ON HIGH • Aidan Santa Cruz, piano & vocals; Chris Charman, bass; Zack Olsen, drums

WELCOME the Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING SONG 1) in unison 2) repeated as a round Navajo Traditional

**Now I walk in beauty.  
Beauty is before me.  
Beauty is behind me, above and below me.**

\*RESPONSIVE PSALM *Psalm 121* Gretchen Vannice, liturgist

One: I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**All: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The LORD is your keeper: the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

One: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**All: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

\*HYMN GATHER US IN

**Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,  
We have been sung throughout all of hist'r'y, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

WORD MADE PLAIN Children are invited to gather in front

LENTEN PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND RENEWAL

One: Where we have seen pain without being moved, smothered your love with solemn pride, resigned to injustice and forsaken righteousness...

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

One: Where we have spoken of love more than we have shared it, claimed faith without the discipline of living by your word, pointed the finger of blame while ignoring our own sin...

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

One: For false comforts in the face of suffering, for excuses in the face of misery...

**All: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\*ASSURANCE

May the peace of God surround you... **Like the trees towering in the forest!**  
May the peace of God warm you all over... **Like the sun shining in the sky!**  
May the peace of God rise and roll over you... **Like the waves rolling in the sea!**  
May the peace of God fill you... **Like the wind stirring in your soul!**  
May the peace of God surround you... [singing] **Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen...** [repeating]

\*GREETING OF PEACE

ANTHEM *The Climb* J. L. Alexander/J. C. Mabe

GOSPEL *John 3:1-8* Gretchen Vannice

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

SERMON *I Can't Make You Love Me* Pastor Dave

MEDITATION Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH ...concluding with the *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.  
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

OFFERTORY *Look to the Sky*  Antonio Carlos Jobim

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION  
Words of Institution and Prayers of Consecration  
Distribution

Please come forward by the center aisle to receive.  
Take bread, dip into the cup, partake immediately, and return to your seat by a side aisle.

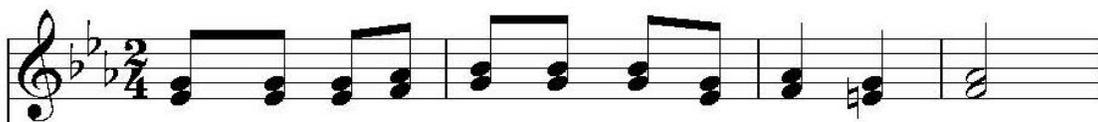
Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*HYMN [hymn sheet] *Count Your Blessings* BLESSINGS

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *True to Your Heart* Matthew Wilder/ David Zippel

# Count Your Blessings



1. When up - on life's bil - lows you are temp - est tossed,  
2. Are you e - ver bur - dened with a load of care?  
3. When you look at o - thers with their lands and gold,  
4. So, a - mid the con - flict, whe - ther great or small,



When you are dis - cour aged, thin - king all is lost,  
Does the cross seem hea - vy you are called to bear?  
Think that Christ has pro - mised you His wealth un - told;  
Do not be dis - cour aged, God is o - ver all;



Count your ma - ny bles - sings, name them one by one,  
Count your ma - ny bles - sings, cv' - ry doubt will fly,  
Count your ma - ny bles - sings, mo - ney can - not buy  
Count your ma - ny bles - sings, an - gels will at - tend,



And it will sur - prise you what the Lord hath done.  
And you will be sing - ing as the days go by.  
Your re - ward in hea - ven, nor your home on high.  
Help and com - fort give you to your jour - ney's end.



Count your bles-sings, name them one by one;  
 Count your man-y bless-ings, name them one by one;

Count your bles-sings, see what God hath done;  
 Count your man-y bless-ings, see what God hath done;

Count your bles-sings, name them one by one;  
 Count your man-y bless-ings

Count your ma-ny bles-sings, see what God hath done.