



the good news is...

protection & care for the vulnerable

March 15, 2026 – 10am

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” arr. Bish

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God loves the field mouse.

People: God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

Leader: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

People: God loves the child who rocks and claps.

Leader: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

People: God loves those who crawl, walk, and use mobility aids.

Leader: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

People: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

Leader: So let us worship this good-news God!

*Please rise in body or spirit

*HYMN #20

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"



One of a series of hymns the author wrote for children on the Apostles' Creed, this text (originally in seven stanzas) expands "Maker of heaven and earth." The first stanza became the refrain when the text was later set to a popular tune from the age of King Charles II.

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors;
God made their tiny wings.
(Refrain)

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:
(Refrain)

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
God made them every one.
(Refrain)

4 God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.
(Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION



PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!

Amen.

HYMN #582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"



1 Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

2 World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 24:17-22(NRSVUE)

We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.
Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 19:13-15(NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“The Good News is...Protection and Care for the Vulnerable”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say “debts & debtors.”)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Legacy Giving

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

“The Shelter of Shalom” by Craig Courtney

LYRICIST’S NOTE: The concept for this text comes from the Jewish feast of Sukkot (shelters or booths), during which the Jews build and dwell in simple shelters for seven days. These shelters must have at least two walls and one partial wall. This fragile construction recalls the wilderness journey when the Israelites lived in tents, exposed to the elements, protected only by the sheltering presence of the Lord (Leviticus 23:40-43).

The roofs must be made of branches, providing some relief from the sun but open enough to see the stars at night. The view of the night sky is a reminder that, even in God’s majesty, He is mindful of His people (Psalm 8:4-5). Consider that the sky might also be a reminder of our eternal dwelling place once this life has ended. The word “shalom” can be used in greeting as both hello and farewell; it means “peace” but also “wholeness” or “completeness.” It is one of the many names for God, Jehovah Shalom (Judges 6:24).

The prayer recited on the Jewish Sabbath also contains a reference to the shelter of shalom: “Spread over us your canopy of peace.” That phrase, along with Isaiah 40:22 and Psalm 104:2, inspired the opening lines of the text. The closing line refers to II Corinthians 5:1. On the day when we bid farewell to the temporary shelter of earthly body, we will greet the eternal shelter of heaven, and stand in wholeness before God, our Shalom. Shalom.

*DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*HYMN

“See the Precious Children”



1 See the precious children seated on the lap of Christ our Lord
Called the greatest in the kingdom held so gently and adored
They are precious in the sight of God who made each tiny toe
In their weakness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow

2 See the precious widowed women gleaning harvests from the field
Then returning to their kitchen to prepare their daily meal
They are precious in the sight of God who holds their broken hearts
In their sorrow they're held by love that redeems each fragile part

3 See the precious foreign strangers as they carry all they own
To a land that's full of dangers for the powerless and prone
They are precious in the sight of God who made their homeland, too
In their journey they're held by love as each day they start anew

4 See the precious dispossessed ones asking for some food to eat
Sleeping under starry heavens, daily living on the streets
They are precious in the sight of God who loves them as a child
In their hunger they're held by love as they guard their human pride

5 See the precious world impoverished by our malice and our greed
Humans, animals, and planet crying out for some relief
We're all precious in the sight of God who made each holy thing
In our living we're held by love as we care for every being

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“See the Precious Children”

Liturgy from this service is by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Assisting in Worship Today:

Terry Kennedy Mancini – Liturgist

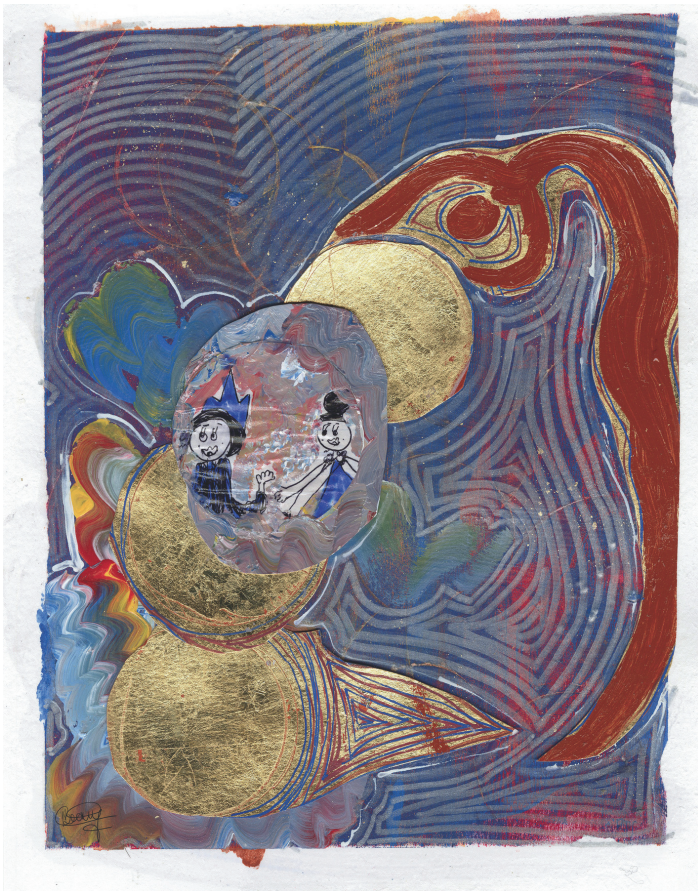
Whitney Dodds – Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor



“Let the Little Children Come”
by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell
Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT



Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.

Preacher from the Pew - Wednesday at 7pm. This Week: Morgan James

Centering Prayer - Thursdays at 8:30am in the Lounge

2026 VBS

June 15-18, 9-11:30am

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!

 <https://bit.ly/CPCVBS2026>



3 YEARS - 5TH GRADE

Begin the conversation.

Legacy Giving Lunch 4/19 11:15-1:30pm

RSVP

<https://bit.ly/CPCLegacyLunch>
or contact Megan

PER CAPITA



\$46/ per person

Give blood.



Monday, March 23, 2026 12 - 6pm

BLOOD DRIVE

Give in March for a \$15 Gift Card by email & successful donations get A1c testing!
rcblood.org/March



SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT:

Scan the QR Code

Call 1-800-733-2767 OR

Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: covenant



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 3.29.26

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



PALM SUNDAY | MARCH 29 10 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY | APRIL 2 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 3 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 5 10AM

PREACHER FROM THE PEW | WEDNESDAYS 7PM
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25



PREACHER FROM THE PEW

Morgan James

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 18, 2026
7 PM

Jude McLean

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 25, 2026
7 PM



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