

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee (Verse 1)

Blue Hymnal #382

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: God of steady mercy, receive these gifts. Use them to clear what harms, to heal what is wounded, to restore what has been stripped bare. May what we offer participate in your life-giving work. In Christ's name, Amen.

HYMN

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Blue Hymnal #537

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go into a world that may feel unsettled.
Do not be afraid.
Stay awake.
Tell the truth.
Lament honestly.
Wait faithfully.
Trust that what destroys cannot endure.
And may the God who breathes life into dry bones
steady your steps this week -
until we gather again.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

March 22, 2026

A Vulture Reveals a Coming Savior

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: Holy and Unsettling God, you are not frightened by the shaking of nations nor surprised by the rise and fall of empires. When systems tremble and headlines roar, you remain steady. When we are tempted to panic, you call us to wakefulness. When we are tempted to look away, you invite us to see clearly. As we gather in this Lenten hour, strip away illusion. Clear what has grown stale in us. Expose what cannot endure. And breathe again your Spirit of truth and hope. Through Christ, who walks toward the cross without fear, Amen.

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In times of uncertainty, we gather.
Congregation: In times of shaking, we seek what endures.
Pastor: When systems rise and systems fall,
Congregation: God remains faithful.
Pastor: When truth feels buried beneath noise and power,
Congregation: God calls us to wakefulness.
Pastor: Where there is decay, revelation comes.
Congregation: Where there are bones, God breathes life.
Pastor: Let us worship the One who unveils what is false
and restores what is broken.
Congregation: We worship in hope and holy attentiveness.

HYMN

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Blue Hymnal #67

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Jesus tells us not to be afraid - but to stay awake. Yet we confess how often we numb ourselves or look away. Where there is decay, we pretend not to notice. Where there is injustice, we hope someone else will address it. Where fear whispers, we let courage falter. The vulture reveals what has already died. Let us ask God to reveal what in us needs clearing - not to shame us, but to make room for new life. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Holy God, you call us to truth. We prefer comfort. You call us to courage. We choose safety. You call us to lament injustice. We settle for distraction. When systems devour the vulnerable, we sometimes remain silent. When fear rises, we retreat. When decay sets in, we hope it will go unnoticed. Clear what has grown stagnant in us. Expose what keeps us from love. Strip away what is false. And where we feel like dry bones - breathe again your Spirit. We pray in the name of Christ, who unveils and restores. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: The good news is this: Exposure is not condemnation. It is preparation for healing. God does not reveal in order to destroy - but to restore. In Jesus Christ, what is broken is forgiven, what is dry is breathed upon, and what is fearful is steadied. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Blue Hymnal #35

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

ANTHEM

Rock of Ages (Smith)

Chancel Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Habakkuk 1:5-11

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:1-14, 26-28

DIALOGUE SERMON

Rev. Laura Baker & Ms. Carol Wagner

PRAYER

Liturgist: Holy and Watchful God, we pray in a world that feels unsettled. We pray for places where violence circles. For regions where fear tightens. For leaders tempted to trust power over wisdom. For nations leaning on weapons rather than mercy. We pray for those who live under systems that devour. For the vulnerable. For the displaced. For the unheard. We pray for communities who are weary of instability. For families strained by anxiety. For young people inheriting uncertainty. Teach us to stay awake without despair. To name truth without hatred. To lament without losing hope. Where decay is revealed, bring courage. Where bones lie scattered, bring breath. Where fear tempts us to deny who we are, steady us in faithfulness. We pray as Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

The Church's One Foundation **Blue Hymnal, #272**

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: In unstable times, generosity is an act of trust. When systems shake, we invest in what endures. When fear tightens, we loosen our grip. The offering is not payment. It is participation in restoration. Let us give as people who believe that what destroys cannot endure - but love will. You are invited to stand, as you are able, for the dedication of our gifts through song and prayer.