



**Fourth Sunday of Lent: “The Way Home”
March 15, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

WE GATHER
Meeting One Another on The Way

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Prelude in D Minor" J. S. Bach

*LENTEN INVITATION: “We Are Marching in the Light of God” #526
New Century Hymnal (sing twice)

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God.

*CALL TO WORSHIP: A PRAYER FOR THE PATH

One: Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way.

All: At times we aren’t sure the road we travel leads to the home we seek.

One: Will we ever feel like we have arrived?

All: We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance in the home that Jesus promises.

One: And whether we are feeling lost or at home, may we know you are always with us.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing” #459 *New Century Hymnal
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I’ve known:
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

It was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.”

Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You, God of endless grace.

Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human.

Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives.

And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might see that your arms open in welcome.

(Silent confession)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Bless the Lord, My Soul” (*Taizé Community*) (repeat once)**



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "A Time for Tuning" Words by Pamela Martin;
Music by Craig Courtney

WE PROCLAIM

Discovering Ourselves on The Way

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15: 11-32
A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible p.850

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION "There Is Now a New Creation" #774 *Glory to God Hymnal*



1 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
2 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:
3 Wrap the prod - i - gal in wel - come; run to greet the way - ward child.
4 Come and join the cel - e - bra - tion; come and join this hap - py feast;
5 There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ.



peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.
All is fin - ished and for - giv - en; let us now be rec - on - ciled.
Je - sus makes an in - vi - ta - tion to the great - est and the least.
Sing, with thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, to the God of end - less life!



WE RESPOND

Opening to the Holy on The Way

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Meditation in E Minor" George Oldroyd
A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE tune #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God, Creator of us all, praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free, our way is yours, the One-in-Three.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

*COMMISSIONING HYMN "God of the Sparrow" #22 *Glory to God Hymnal*

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

The Creator God filled you with breath, inviting you to this journey called Life.

We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means to make a new way with Love.

We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward with courage and compassion for all we meet.

We will follow on The Way.

POSTLUDE "Tocatta in E Minor" Johann Pachelbel

Worship Endnotes: Prayers and other liturgical elements adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com/TheWay

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“The Way” Week 4 journaling prompts:

Read Luke 15: 11-32, the parable of the lost son. To which of the sons do you feel the closest resemblance: the son who stayed and toiled in his father’s fields and resented his brother’s special treatment, or the son who found himself in need of forgiveness and a place to call home?

Where in your life might there be a relationship that needs softening—a movement from judgment to empathy, from distance to welcome? What helps you open your heart to someone you’ve misunderstood, or who has misunderstood you? How might you take one small step toward “coming home” to another person—or even to yourself—through forgiveness or compassion?

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contribution to the
ministries of Hope UCC!

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be with us on The Way.
At times we aren’t sure about
the relationship of the road we travel
and the home we seek.
Will we ever feel like we have arrived?
We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance
in the home that Jesus promises.
And whether we are feeling lost or at home,
may we know you are always with us.
Amen.**