



**Fifth Sunday of Lent: “The Free Way”  
March 22, 2026 10:30 a.m.**

**WE GATHER**  
*Meeting One Another on The Way*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Meditation in C Minor" Felix Alexandre Guilmant

\*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: God our Rock, be with us on The Way.

**All: At times we are not sure how we will carry the burdens of grief and disappointment that accumulate in life.**

One: We come asking for help in lightening the load so that we can be free to move in new directions.

**All: Help us to help each other as Jesus asks us to do. Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN “Sing Praise to God” #22 *New Century Hymnal vv.1-3*

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

**Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!**

**Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!**

**Gladsome rejoice—organ and trumpet and voice—joining God’s great congregation.**

**Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,**

**Who, as on eagle’s wings, saves us from sinful dejection.**

**Have you observed, how we are always preserved by God’s parental affection?**

**Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.**

**Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.**

**Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:**

**strength that would touch and caress us.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory.

**We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name.**

We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river of your grace.

**Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God.**

Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world.*(Silent confession)*

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the words of our creator, spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“I have called you by name. You are mine. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.”

**Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Sing Praise to God” v.4

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.**

**All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.**

**God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: amen, amen never ending.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

**WE PROCLAIM**

*Discovering Ourselves on The Way*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:18-21

Pew Bible p.586

A Word of God that is still speaking,

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” #417 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,  
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,  
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind  
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**Christ is alive and goes before us to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new.**

### **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 G" Theodore Dubois

*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 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” #82 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you;  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.**

### \*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     "Voluntary in D Minor"     John Stanley

---

Worship Endnotes: Prayers and other liturgical elements adapted from  
[www.worshipdesignstudio.com/TheWay](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/TheWay)

Music reprinted by permission OneLicense A-722326

### ***“The Way” Week 5 journaling prompts:***

Letting go of the past, really letting go, is not an easy task. Yet every time we rehash hard memories, our brain synapses actually strengthen the memory. What memory could use a little less reinforcement, less rehashing, in order to give yourself the energy you need to strain forward on your journey?

What weight have you been carrying—regret, resentment, guilt, perfectionism, or perhaps the need to control? What might it look like to set it down, even a little, and let the road hold it for you? How could perseverance in your current journey, pressing on with faith rather than striving, lead you toward a new experience of freedom?

