

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *“Magnificat, Sing Out My Soul” by Taizé Community*

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Call to Worship *Psalm 139*

Alan Smith

Beloved of God, we gather knowing we are already known.

O God, you have searched us and known us.

You know our hopes and our fears, our questions and our dreams.

When can we go from your Spirit?

Where can we flee from your presence?

Not in the height of joy nor the depths of sorrow are we alone.

For your love meets us everywhere.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made, each life sacred, each story held in grace.

Let us worship the One who know us fully and loves us completely!

***Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

New Century Hymnal #28

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Prayer for Illumination

Alan Smith

Gracious and loving God, you who have searched us and known us, you who are familiar with all our ways – be present with us now. Open our hearts to the truth that we are never alone. When grief feels deep and words feel hard, remind us that you are with us in the heights of joy and in the depths of sorrow. May we hear again the promise that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, known completely, and held always in love. O God, help us trust that nothing in life or death can separate us from your presence. Amen.

Anthem

“One Candle, One Flame” by Linda Sobo

Contributors: Linda Sobo. Used with permission from the composer.

Responsive Psalm *Psalm 23 (RSV)*

Alan Smith

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

***Hymn**

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

New Century Hymnal #433

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A Time to Share our Remembrances of Stu Rapp

You may use the mic at the pulpit or stay in your seat and have the mic handed to you. Please remember to speak clearly into the mic, holding it close to your mouth. Thank you.

Music of Reflection

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Prayer Response

“The Lord is My Song” by Taizé Community

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Call to Offering

Offertory

**Doxology Pilgrim Hymnal #515 *[alternative words]*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him [God], all creatures here below

Praise Him [God] above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father [Creator], Son [Christ], and Holy Ghost. Amen

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

God, we offer you these gifts, and pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

***Hymn**

“On a Hill Far Away”

New Century Hymnal #195

Contributors: George Bennard © 1913; Public Domain.

Benediction

Benediction Response “Raise a Song of Gladness” by Taizé Community

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Postlude

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folllott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Folllott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

On a Hill Far Away

(The Old Rugged Cross)

Heb. 12:2; James 1:12

George Bennard, 1913; alt.

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross, the
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In that old rug-ged cross, which bore Love so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

em - blem of suf - fering and shame; And I love that old cross where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the
 won - drous beau - ty I see, For up - on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; When God calls me some-day to my

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry of heaven to bear it to cold Cal - va - ry.
 suf - fered and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, there God's glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged
 cross, the

cross, and ex - change it some-day for a crown.
 old rug - ged cross,