

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
March 22, 2026 9:30 a.m.

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude *What Wondrous Love Is This* American folk hymn, arr. J. Kunick
(*What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused
the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.*)
(*A time of silence to prepare our hearts to worship; please silence your cell phone*)

Word for 2026: **Practice.**

People: *May we practice becoming.*

Salutation

Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Call to Worship

Come and worship the One
whose authority is not borrowed,
whose truth cannot be trapped,
and whose reign cannot be overturned.

**Come, not to perform religion
but to offer God what belongs to God.**

Come with your questions.

Come with your weariness.

Come with your divided loyalties and your longing to be made whole.

**The One who was rejected
has become the cornerstone.**

**The One who walked toward the cross
still calls us to holy allegiance.**

Come, let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn (#458 Blue Book)

Take My Life and Let It Be

Call to Confession

In today's Gospel, leaders question Jesus' authority. But their questions are not born of humility. They are born of fear—fear of losing control, fear of facing truth,

fear of surrendering power. Before we judge them too quickly, Lent invites us to look inward. For we too resist what exposes us. We protect what feels secure. We give careful answers when God is asking for honest hearts. Yet the One who calls us to truth is also the One who meets us with mercy. So let us come before God with humility and courage, trusting that the grace of Christ is greater than our failures. Let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy and searching God, you know us more deeply than we know ourselves. You see where our allegiance is divided. You see where we cling to control instead of trusting your authority. Forgive us for protecting what is comfortable when you call us toward truth. Forgive us for asking questions that delay obedience. Forgive us for offering you only pieces of our lives instead of our whole selves. Remind us, O God, that we bear your image. Reorder our loyalties. Renew our courage. Teach us to give back to you what has always belonged to you. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. What was dismissed, God has established. What was broken, God restores. What was bound by sin, God sets free. In Jesus Christ, God does not abandon us to fear, nor leave us trapped in the patterns we confess. Through the mercy of Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called again into faithful life. Believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation (Insert)

Something Good is Going to Happen to You

Please Remain Seated

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

The Word of God, for the People of God!

Luke 20:19-26

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Whose Image Is On You?
Lenten Series: Practicing the Heart of Jesus: Walking to Golgotha

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory I Want Jesus To Walk With Me African American Spiritual
(I want Jesus to walk with me all along my pilgrim journey.
In my trials, Lord, walk with me when my heart is almost breaking.
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me when my heart is bowed in sorrow.)
Nancy Tanis, contralto

*Doxology Tune (Old Hundreth)
*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith (Insert and Projection)
Prayers of The People, and The Lord's Prayer

Announcements
*Closing Hymn (#547 Blue Book) The Church's One Foundation

*Benediction

Postlude *Christ, the Life of All the Living* setting: J.C. Bach

Our Invitation

Welcome to United Reformed Church! As we join together in prayer, song, and praise to God, we pray that the blessings and fellowship you find here will enrich your life. *If you are physically able, an asterisk (*) indicates an invitation to stand.*

Bold text signifies opportunities for the congregation to read and respond responsively.

Pastor Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Church Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs 9AM-2PM; Wed 3-7 PM

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lillian Hines pastorlillianhines@gmail.com

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**Practicing the Heart of Jesus:
Walking to Golgotha**