

**First Sunday in Lent**  
**March 9, 2025**

**Prelude**

Nenad Ivović

**Welcome**

Rev. Greg Mobley

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**      from *Psalm 138*

Leader: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before all powers I sing your praise;

**People: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.**

Leader: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

**People: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**People: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; steadfast love, O Lord, endured forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

#228 Red Hymnal

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humbling dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus thou art all compassion; pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest; take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore  
thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise. Amen.

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Sacrament of Baptism**      *Viktorija Hathaway Leiponis*

Invitation and Address

Baptismal Promises

**\*Congregational Commitment**

Leader: Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care  
to the one about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support, and care.**

Prayer over Baptismal Waters (*unison*)

**O God, we give you thanks for the gift of water. Over water your Holy Spirit brooded in creation to bring forth the earth. Through water you led your Chosen People to deliverance in the Promised Land. In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. In the waters of the Jordan, John baptized Jesus. With water, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and taught them to serve. Bless now this water and grant that what we do now on earth may be confirmed in heaven. Amen.**

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized (*unison*)

**O God, uphold Tory by your Holy Spirit. Increase in her, from day to day, your gifts of grace, the spirit of knowledge and reverence of God, and the spirit of joy and love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presentation of the Newly Baptized

**Kids' Church** Children are welcome to meet in the entrance area of the sanctuary for Kids Church in the Parish House. Nicole Giannetta

**Scripture** *John 6:24-35* (pg. 927 in your pew Bible)

**Sermon** *The Bread of Life*

**\*Hymn** *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* #399 Red Hymnal

O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back to the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in the dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. Amen.

## Service of Prayer

Joys and Concerns / Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer (debts)

## Offering

Call to Offering

Choir Anthem *Some Glad Morning* by Albert Brinkley Roger Calistro & Al Jarvis with Faye Chen

\*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; (or) Praise God, from Whom All blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise God for all that love has done;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Praise Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*Closing Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#101 Red Hymnal

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;  
and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord. Amen.

**Benediction**

**Threefold Amen**

**Postlude**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit

**Award-Winning Storyteller**  
**Valerie Tutson**  
Stories & songs of blessings  
for all ages!



**Sunday, March 16th**  
**2:00 - 3:00 PM Stories & Songs**  
**3:00 - 3:30 PM Refreshments**

**First Church of Christ**  
**5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge**

For more information call: (203) 936-9356

