

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, March 1, 2026



LL Cool J by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

12"x24" Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas

We gather as God's people for worship and to share the gifts, strengths, and talents of all who are here while respecting the beliefs, opinions and struggles of others as we strive to love one another as God loves us.

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www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 1, 2026, 11:00 am
2nd Sunday in Lent

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude "Italian Concerto, 2-Andante" J. S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Introit "O Lord, I Cry to Thee" Jacob Arcadelt

O Lord I cry to thee; make haste unto me. Give ear unto my voice as I cry unto thee.

Let me not be ashamed. Let not my foes triumph over me.

Oh, lead me in a plain path. Cast me not off, neither forsake me.

Teach me thy way Lord, lead me in a plain path.

Hide not thy face far from me. Lord God, in thee have I trusted. Amen

Call to Worship

Tell me something good! **God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good! **God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good! **God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed! **Let us worship our compassionate God.**

*Hymn "God is Calling through the Whisper" 410

*Prayer of the Day

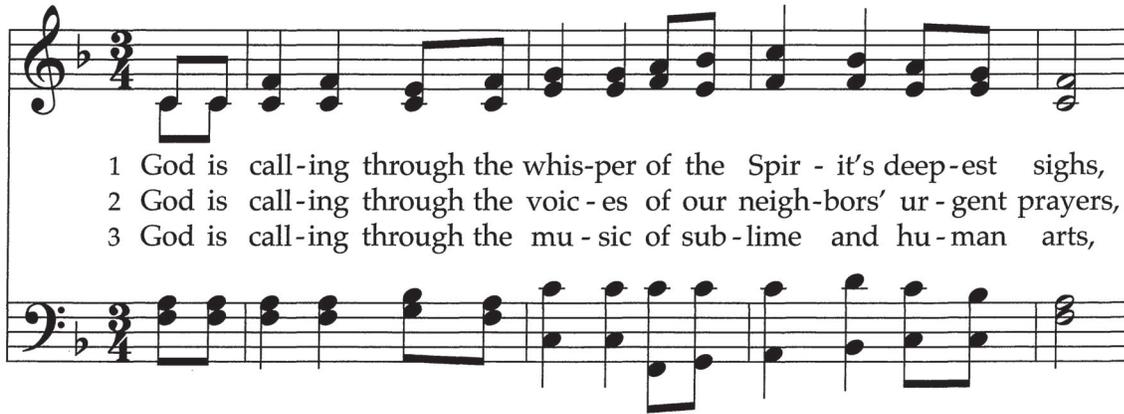
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

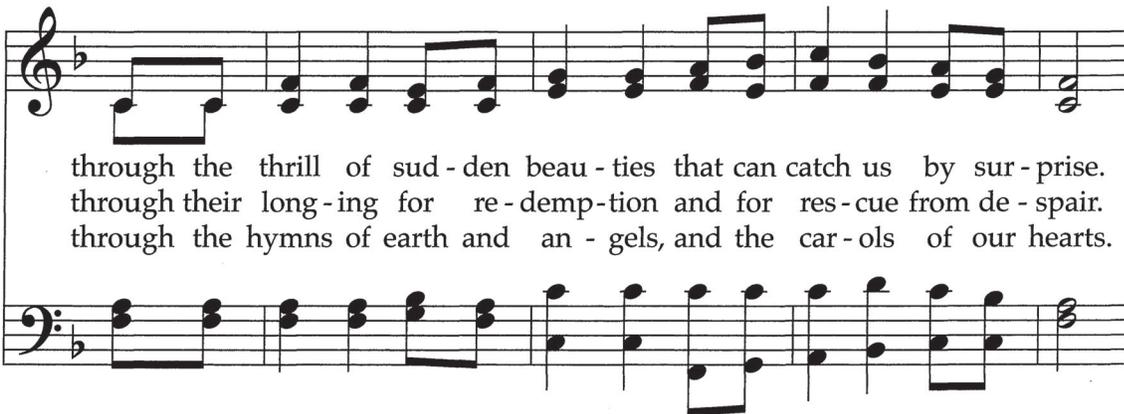
Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

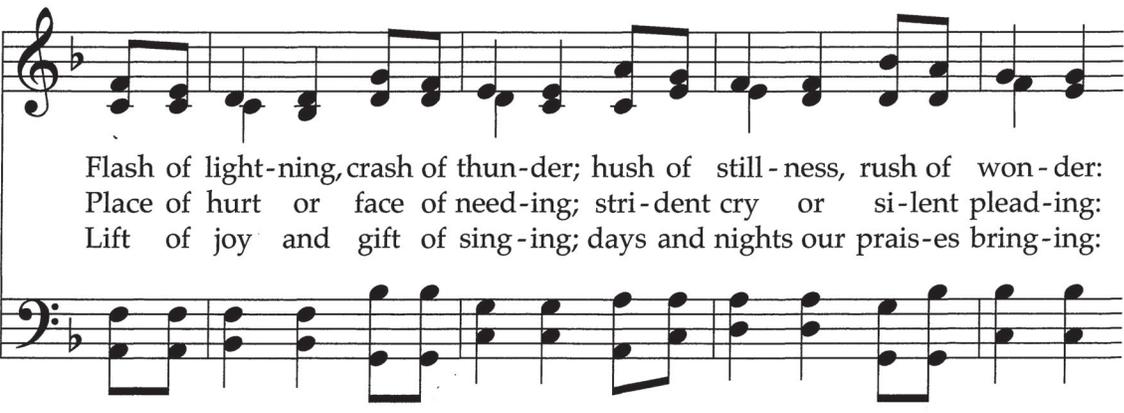
410 God Is Calling through the Whisper



1 God is call-ing through the whis-per of the Spir - it's deep-est sighs,
2 God is call-ing through the voic-es of our neigh-bors' ur-gent prayers,
3 God is call-ing through the mu-sic of sub-lime and hu-man arts,



through the thrill of sud-den beau-ties that can catch us by sur-prise.
through their long-ing for re-demp-tion and for res-cue from de-spair.
through the hymns of earth and an-gels, and the car-ols of our hearts.



Flash of light-ning, crash of thun-der; hush of still-ness, rush of won-der:
Place of hurt or face of need-ing; stri-dent cry or si-lent plead-ing:
Lift of joy and gift of sing-ing; days and nights our prais-es bring-ing:



God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—can you hear? God is call-ing—can you hear?
God is call-ing—and we hear! God is call-ing—and we hear!

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The first staff contains two phrases of music, each with a fermata over the final note. The second staff continues the melody, also with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Assurance of Pardon

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

*Gloria

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The music consists of a single melodic line with chords. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*Exchange of Peace

Remembering that some of our church family is watching the livestream, let us first turn to the cameras and say, "Peace be with you!" (*turn and offer the peace.*) Being mindful of the comfort levels and boundaries of those around us, let us pass the peace of Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Good news God, speak louder than the news updates. Speak louder than our mental distractions. Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear. God, speak loudly to us today, because we long to hear your good news once more. With hope we pray, amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:35-40, p. 35

*Second Scripture Reading

Luke 7:36-50, p. 80

Response to the Scripture Readings

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe

*Hymn

"Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love"

449

*Affirmation of Faith

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

. . We join our voices with all these amazing things to praise you for the life you give us:

Show Us, O Lord, Your Steadfast Love 449

(Psalm 85)

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Show us, O Lord, your stead - fast love, and let your
2 Mer - cy and truth at last have met; jus - tice and
3 Lord, you will grant pros - per - i - ty; our land will
sav - ing grace be near; when we re - turn with o - pen
peace are rec - on - ciled. Truth has a - ris - en from the
yield its full in - crease. Jus - tice shall go be - fore your
hearts the Lord speaks peace and we will hear.
earth; jus - tice looked down from heaven and smiled.
face; the path - way for your feet is peace.

This paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 85 includes some remarkable signs of God's reign: that mercy, truth, justice, and peace exist simultaneously and that the fruits of creation will be abundant. Because we still await that day, this psalm is often associated with Advent.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: . . . Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

The Lord's Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

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; do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

The Communion of the People

Communion Interlude

"Le Banquet Celeste"

Olivier Messiaen

Prayer After Communion

Offertory Sentence

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

For our electronic giving option, scan QR code:



Offertory Anthem

"Prayer to Jesus"

John Ness Beck

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin; From selfish passions set me free and make me pure within. Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed; Let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest. Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray; Through darkness and perplexity point out the heavenly way. Lord Jesus, think on me, that when this life is past, I may the eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last. Amen.

*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

608

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn

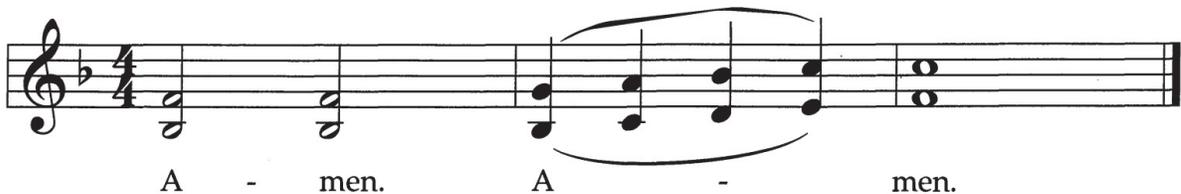
"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak"

722

Benediction *All are welcome to join in singing:*

May the peace of our Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

*Amen



599

Postlude

"Verset Fugue sur 'In exitu Israël'"

Louis Vierne

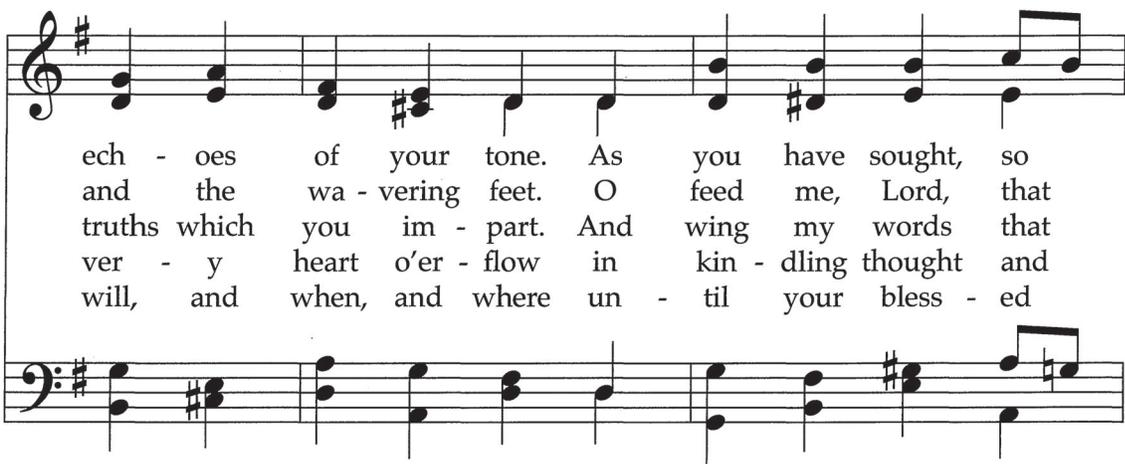
Feel free to sit and enjoy the Postlude or quietly leave as you wish.

**Those who can may stand*

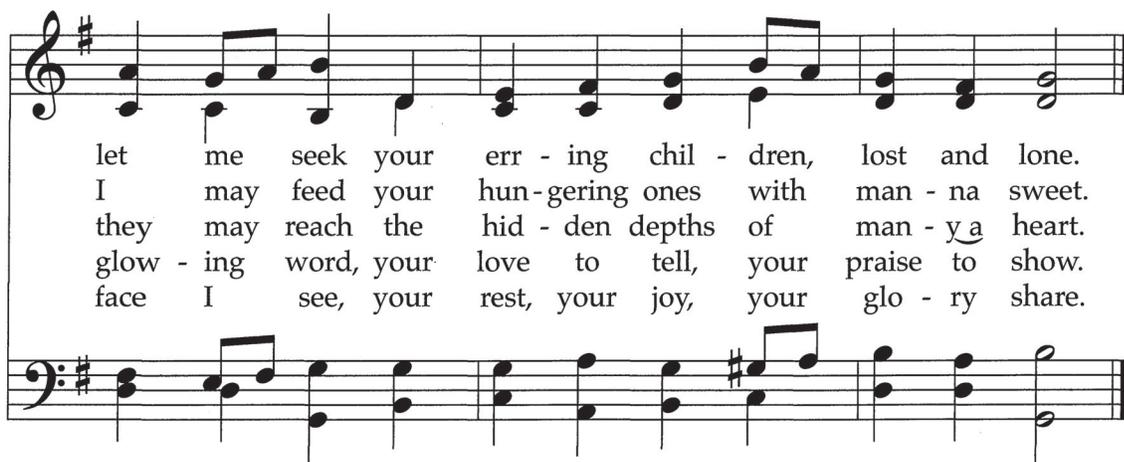
722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak



1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you



ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gering ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

Church Announcements

Today's Service:

Kirk Howe (*guest organist*); Peter Gilmore (liturgist); Greg Winner (livestream); Sara Berg, Mary Lang, Patty Halverson (ushers)

Liturgy drawn and reprinted with permission from:

- Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- *The Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies*, Iona Community, 2017.

Coffee Hour Today

After today's service, join us for Coffee Hour in the chapel!

Care Closet Donations Needed

The Care Closet is running low on supplies, and the Deacons are requesting your help. Items we need include:

- new or gently worn warm hats and gloves;
- sealed hygiene products such as lip balm, Band-Aids, hand wipes, feminine supplies
- grab-and-go non-perishable foods (especially options without nuts or chocolate, and foods that are easy to eat without utensils).

Individually packaged and travel-sized items work best.

**Please place items in the donation box in the chapel, labeled "Care Closet".
Thank you!**



SIXTH
presbyterian
CHURCH

The Stories We Share

A Lenten Conversation Series

Tuesdays at 7 PM on Zoom.
Drop in for any or all of these
intergenerational conversations with our
friends and members.

NEXT WEEK'S CONVERSATION:

3/3/26 The Story of Care: Stewardship

Please contact the church office for the Zoom link. Or scan the QR code now to add this to your calendar.





See You by T. Denise Anderson
Inspired by Matthew 25:35-40
14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church:

Sunday, March 1 (after worship)

Coffee Hour (12pm, Chapel)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Tuesday, March 3

Staff Meeting (10am, Chapel)
The Stories We Share (7pm, Zoom)

Wednesday, March 4

Bible Study (10:30-11:30am, Zoom)
14 Ward Democrats (6:30pm-9:30pm, Chapel)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (7-9pm, Parlor)

Thursday, March 5

Youth Group (4:30-7pm, ELPC)
Choir Rehearsal (7:30-8:30pm, Chapel)

Friday, March 6

Tri Lam (2-5pm, Parlor)

Saturday, March 7

AA-Turning Point (5-6pm)
Pgh Bridges OCD Support (6-9pm, Parlor)
NA-Squirrel Hill Group (7:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, March 8

(Daylight Savings: SPRING FORWARD)

Sunday School (10am)
Choir Rehearsal (10am, Sanctuary)
Worship (11am-12pm, in-person & streaming)
Fiberarts Guild (2-5pm, Chapel)
NA- Keep Coming Back Men's Mtg (8-9pm)

Rev. Dr. Charissa Howe, *Pastor*
Jenny Newman, *Director of Christian Education*
Shay Carter McGraw, *Music Director*
Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*
Kelly Johnson, *Office Administrator*
John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*

To be added to the church newsletter email list, request pastoral care, or for any other questions or concerns, please contact us here.

