

Midweek Lenten Service

March 11, 2026

the good news is . . . together, the impossible is possible.



“Far More Abundantly”
by Lauren Wright Pittman

Holden Evening Prayer

The Liturgy is found in the Holden Evening Prayer worship folder.

(Please return the folder to an Usher after the service)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC: There is a Balm in Gilead

arr. By Mark Hayes

SERVICE OF LIGHT p. 2

PSALMODY p. 3-6

FIRST READING: MARK 6:32-44

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷ But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸ And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

MEDITATION

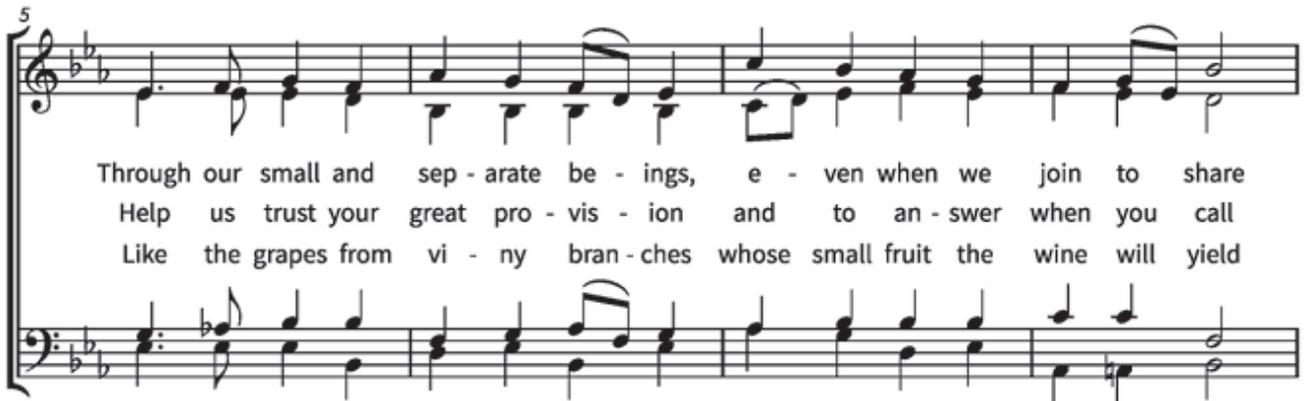
Pastor Cheryl

HYMN OF THE DAY: Human Minds Just Can't Imagine (Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN)



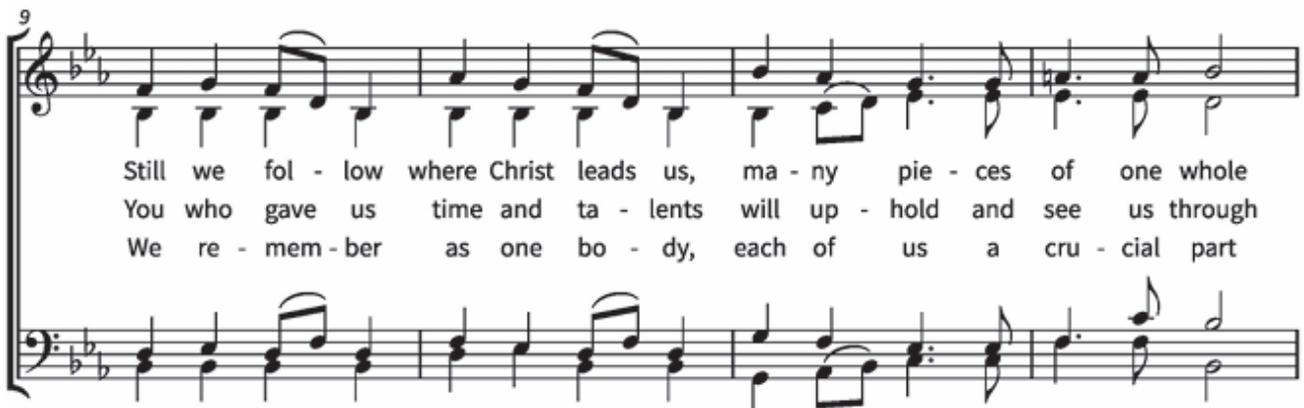
Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring to bear
 God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts too small
 Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll - ing fields

5



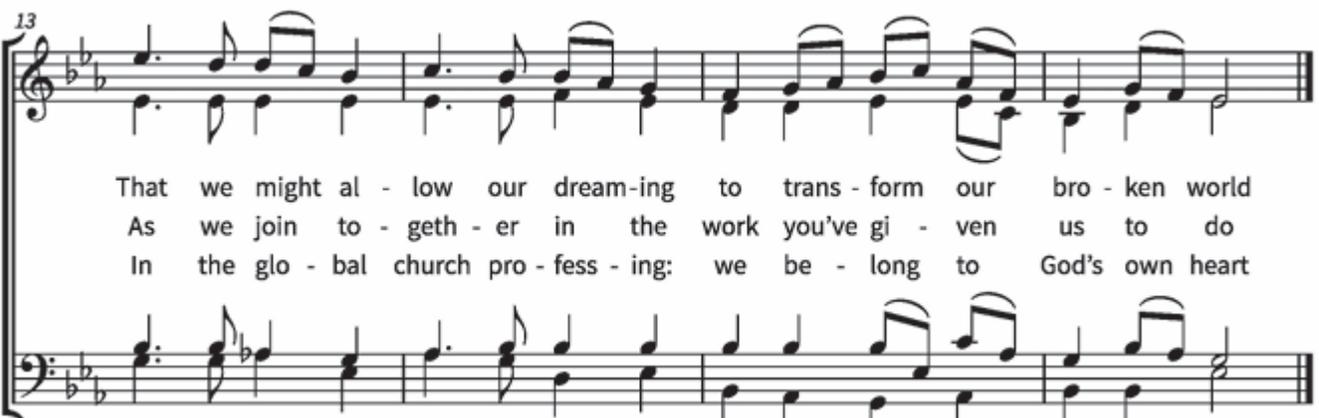
Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven when we join to share
 Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to an - swer when you call
 Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small fruit the wine will yield

9



Still we fol - low where Christ leads us, ma - ny pie - ces of one whole
 You who gave us time and ta - lents will up - hold and see us through
 We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy, each of us a cru - cial part

13



That we might al - low our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
 As we join to - geth - er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
 In the glo - bal church pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

P: The Light shines in the darkness
C: **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

THE ANNUNCIATION AND MAGNIFICAT p. 7
LITANY AND PRAYERS p. 8
THE PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER..... p. 9
FINAL BLESSING..... p. 9
SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE
SENDING MUSIC: Deep River Arr. by Kurt Kaiser

TONIGHT’S OFFERING – Offering plates have been placed for your convivence in the narthex and hallway outside of the sanctuary. This year, our midweek offerings will go to support our Blessing Bag Ministry You can also contribute to this ministry by donating items from our Amazon Wish List (see e-news for link.).

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Artist Statement: *Far More Abundantly* by Lauren Wright Pittman, Insp. by Ephesians 3:20-21

I read this Ephesians text alongside the feeding of the five thousand. I placed Jesus at the center of the image, but he did not feed the crowds alone. He asked his disciples to offer what they had. They responded with meager resources, yet those small gifts were enough.

Through the lens of Ephesians, if Jesus were to ask us today what we have to give, our answer would be:

We have the power you have given us to do the impossible. The same power that turned five loaves and two fish into a feast for thousands—*with leftovers*—empowers us “to accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine.” Do we allow this truth to settle into our bones and animate our actions?

I’ll admit, I tried to avoid this passage because it felt overly optimistic in light of today’s world. People still go hungry. Wars rage. The earth groans under our misuse. Yet if we reimagine the systems we created, studies show it is possible for every human being to have what they need. That would require massive restructuring, international cooperation, and the reallocation of resources—but not more than we already possess. We don’t need a miracle of multiplication. We simply need to use what we’ve been given.

In a world of scarcity, this is astonishingly good news. We already have enough. And as my mentor used to say, “*Enough is abundance.*” What will we do with this abundance? Is it too lofty to dream of a world that sustains all of life? Perhaps. Yet I believe it is God’s own desire that all may have life, and have it abundantly. This is the work before us, accomplished through the power at work within us, through Jesus Christ. Amen. –Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman