

Midweek Lenten Service

March 25, 2026

the good news is . . . rooted in justice, mercy, and
faithfulness



“There is Good”
by Hannah Garrity

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: *How Great Thou Art*

arr. By Mark Hayes

SERVICE OF LIGHT **p. 2**

PSALMODY **p. 3-6**

FIRST READING: JOHN 8:2-11

² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 23:23

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

MEDITATION

Pastor Cheryl

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let Us Remember* (Tune: ADELAIDE)

Let Us Remember

ADELAIDE 5.4.5.4 D

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: George C. Stebbins (1907)

What is im - por - tant? What mat - ters more?
We've been shown mer - cy all of our lives
Fol - low - ing Je - sus, liv - ing in truth
What does the Lord re - qui - re of us?

[2]
Hu - man con - nec - tion or keep - ing score? In our pur - suit
By the cre - a - tor of hu - man - kind So when we're in
We re - main faith - ful to our roots When those roots lead
To re - main hum - ble, lov - ing, and just Keep - ing the heart

[5]
of jus - tice and truth Let us re - mem - ber: we fall short, too
a po - si - tion to judge Let us re - mem - ber: they're just like us
us out - side the lines Let us re - mem - ber: faith is a - live
of the gos - pel in mind Let us re - mem - ber: do what is right

©Anna Strickland, 2025. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC. Free for congregational use.

 A Sanctified Art | © A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

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: *What Wondrous Love is This* Arr. by Anna Laura Page

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.).

Worship songs are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953 or Church Copyright License Number: 2634076 and CCLI Streaming License Number: 20463130. Used by permission. These materials have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Scripture quotations are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, copyright ©2021, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art | LLC sanctifiedart.org. Cover Art: “There is Good” by Hannah Garrity| A Sanctified Art | LLC sanctifiedart.org. Liturgy: Holden Evening Prayer.

Artist Statement: *There is Good* by Hannah Garrity **Inspired by Matthew 23:23**

In this series of scriptures, gathered crowds drew my attention. Jesus always drew a crowd, but so did the voices of hate in his time. In our current historic moment, this dichotomy of crowds for justice and crowds for injustice confounds me. Are all crowds worthy of joining? In the background of this piece, I dyed and collaged together torn newspaper, representing the fabric of the world, to portray that cacophony of crowds gathering. What is drawing them in? Is everything that compels us to gather right and good? No.

The clarity comes in this scripture: “For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith” (Matthew 23:23). Most especially, in the context of Jesus denouncing the scribes and the Pharisees, the crucial point is that gathering to enact justice *is* good and gathering to enact injustice *is not*.

The crowd depicted in this artwork is inspired by the 100,000 who gathered strong in Budapest, Hungary, in June, 2025. The Hungarian parliament had outlawed Pride as part of a larger systemic effort to take away the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary, and a “wider effort to curb democratic freedoms ahead of a hotly contested national election next year.”

In the four corners of this artwork, symbols of justice, mercy, and faithfulness echo the clarity of Jesus. Gathering for justice is the work of the gospel.

–Hannah Garrity