

Midweek Lenten Service

March 4, 2026

the good news is . . . great love for God and Neighbor



"LL Cool J"
by Nicolette Faison

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: In the Garden

arr. By Mark Hayes

SERVICE OF LIGHT p. 2

PSALMODY p. 3-6

FIRST READING: LUKE 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. ³⁷ And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

SECOND READING: MATTHEW 25:35-40

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Come With My Devotion* (Tune: ANGEL'S STORY)

I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve my God
 I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost and least
 God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom we meet

Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me be - fore I e - ver sought
 The hun - gry and im - pris - oned, the bro - ken ones like me
 Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing all of hu - man - i - ty

The glo - ry of the hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So
 For in each act of kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All
 So I'll re - turn the love which has formed me from the start

ev - ery gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne
 wor - thy of our love since it's God's face we bear
 Lov - ing my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

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The Light shines in the darkness
And the darkness has not overcome it.

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FINAL BLESSING..... p. 9

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

SENDING MUSIC: When Israel Was In Egypt’s Land Arr. by John Leavitt

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 off of our Amazon Wish List (see e-news for link.).

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Artist Statement: *LL Cool J* by Nicolette Faison Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

Ladies love Cool Jesus. For real. Women absolutely loved Jesus, and the woman with the alabaster jar is a great example of that. Who else shows up to an event unannounced with expensive oils to not only anoint someone’s feet but to then offer their tears and use their hair to wipe the feet clean? I don’t think people comprehend the drama within that part of the story. This was an act of love, admiration, and prophecy. To me, this interpretation of the story gives the woman the attention she deserves.

When I thought about the theme, *Tell Me Something Good*, I realized I had spent much of my year guest preaching at classic church buildings with stained glass windows which told the parishioners the good news of Jesus. It felt most appropriate to bring the concept of stained glass into my art. Instead of the maximalist collage approach that I often use, I chose to let the paint tell the story. The color choice is both bright and vibrant yet softer than other pieces. I selected the yellow purposely to contrast the purple hair. In an attempt to clearly separate the blue sky glass from the rest of the piece, I layered patterns with a red/pink color scale to make the art pop, emphasizing the distinct glass shapes one could find on a church window.

Several aspects of the piece are deconstructed, such as the woman’s head and the foot of Jesus, both detached from bodies. I intentionally emphasize these elements to not distract us from the core of the story. The woman was intimately entwined with the feet of Jesus, her hair entangled with his leg. She released tears that would nourish his toes as the rich oil replenished his skin. To be cared for, to be seen to be loved, that is something good.