

Midweek Lenten Service

March 18, 2026

the good news is ...

... protection and care for the vulnerable



“Fuera ICE”
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: *The Old Rugged Cross*

arr. By Mark Hayes

SERVICE OF LIGHT p. 2

PSALMODY p. 3-6

FIRST READING: MATTHEW 19:13-15

¹³ Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

SECOND READING: DEUTERONOMY 24:17-22

¹⁷ “You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. ¹⁸ Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

¹⁹ “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. ²⁰ When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

²¹ “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²² Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

MEDITATION

Pastor Cheryl

HYMN OF THE DAY: “See the Precious Children” Tune: BEACH SPRING

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)

See the pre - cious chil - dren seat - ed on the lap of
See the pre - cious wi - dowed wo - men glean - ing har - vests
See the pre - cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry
See the pre - cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some
See the pre - cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice

13]

Christ our Lord Called the great - est in the king - dom,
 from the field Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen
 all they own To a land that's full of dan - gers
 food to eat Sleep - ing un - der star - ry heav - ens,
 and our greed Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net

6]

held so gent - ly and a - dored They are pre - cious
 to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They are pre - cious
 for the pow - er - less and prone They are pre - cious
 dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They are pre - cious
 cry - ing out for some re - lief We're all pre - cious

9]

in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
 in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
 in the sight of God who made their home - land, too In their
 in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
 in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our

13

weak - ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
 sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
 jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
 hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
 liv - ing we're held by love as we care for e - very being

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

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FINAL BLESSING..... p. 9

SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

SENDING MUSIC: *Were You There*

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: *Fuera ICE* by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Deuteronomy 24:17-22

They keep taking my neighbors. Chicago and other cities associated with the Democratic party are going through a humanitarian crisis under a fascist regime. Cars are being left vacant on random blocks and parking lots. People are being disappeared while their children are being zip-tied at 3 a.m. We clergy and religious leaders have been shot with pepper spray and rubber bullets while demanding the freedom of our neighbors. No one deserves to live like this. This piece does not truly capture the pain I hold every day, between keeping track of what is happening in Gaza, resisting fascism, and dealing with yet another economic collapse under capitalism.

But let me tell you something good...I still believe in humanity. When I watched people in Gaza prepare basic meals to break their fast during Ramadan during a genocide, I saw something good. When local neighbors saw our public vigil for disappeared people and chose to join us for a time of lament, I saw something good. When Colin Kaepernick paid for the independent autopsy of one of the Black men recently lynched, I saw something good. The good is people still choosing to be empathetic and compassionate in times of crisis. That is what Christ call us to be.

The stranger who enters foreign land is often forced to flee their own home. It is rare for people to risk their entire livelihood and their family for anything other than necessity. For that reason, each portrait has a halo deeming them holy, sacred, and divine. I used sparkling gold paper to break up each distinct image. Look deeply at these portraits. The top left is inspired by the Maasai people, a nomadic group that dwells across borders. The top right image is an indigenous woman and her child, a nod to Mary and Jesus. She has a red palm across her mouth which is a tribute to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and “Two-Spirit” people. The bottom left is a slightly aging man from Mesoamerica. The bottom right is a woman in a hijab, which is commonly targeted in Islamophobic spaces. Look at the people some consider to be a threat. Look at our neighbors. Migrants are sacred. Fuera ICE.

–Rev. Nicolette Faison