



**February 23rd, 2025 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | 7th Sunday
after the Epiphany**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

James Stanley

Contemplation David Lasky

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Rev. David C. Freeman

Written by Cole Arthur Riley

God, how long?

Justice is coming.

We will not feel guilty for hope.

We'll accept nothing less than freedom

I will not make excuses for evil.

Consequence is holy.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 521 †

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me | United Methodist Hymnal

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Written by Cole Arthur Riley

**Gratitude be my guide
Love be my breath.
I wasn't made to be perfect.
I was made to be loved.
I'm no burden.
I am a gift.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

May the peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 328 †

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me— the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Shannon Webb

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

You Are Mine | arr. Mark Hayes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Written by Cole Arthur Riley

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy—
I sing because I'm free—
For His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.

“Let not your heart be troubled.”
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubt and fear.
Though by the path He leadeth,
But one step I may see:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me. **(Refrain)**

Whenever I am tempted,
Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
When hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him;
From care He sets me free:
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me. **(Refrain)**

oqna k l sm m"n d"s g c"v n qb

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Kelley Ponder

Genesis 45: 3-11

This is the word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**I sing because I'm happy- I sing because I'm free-
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me**

SERMON

Rev. Haley Jones Wells

The Nuance of Providence

qcr on mr c"s n"s qc"v n qb

OFFERTORY

Chancel Choir

Draw the Circle Wide \ Mark Miller

DOXOLOGY 94 †

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 571 †

Go Make of All Disciples | United Methodist Hymnal

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS †

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION †

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION †

Chancel Choir

Draw the Circle Wide (reprise) | Mark A. Miller

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider, still. This will be our song, no one stands alone. Standing side by side. Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

Festive Voluntary on "Lancashire" David Lasky

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

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Sunday, February 23, 2025

9:00 am First Word (Cokesbury)

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am First Tradition (Sanctuary)

5:30 pm Canvas Community Worship

Monday, February 24, 2025

9:00 am Flower Girls

12:00 pm Faulkner Circle

1:00 pm Community Café

6:00 pm Walking The Mourner's Path

6:30 pm Beginner Taiko

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

7:00 am Tues Morning Bible Study

9:00 am Staff Meeting

10:30 am Worship Planning

1:00 pm Community Café

3:00 pm First Arts

4:15 pm FANN

6:30 pm Intermediate Taiko

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

9:30 am CDC Chapel

1:00 pm Community Café

5:45 pm Center St Ringers Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 27, 2025

10:00 am PALS

6:00 pm Taizé Prayer Service