

BEYOND

the Yellow Brick Road



**March 16th, 2025 | FIRST TRADITION 11:00 AM | 2nd Sunday in
Lent**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

James Stanley

Morning Prayer Terry Osman

CALL TO WORSHIP †

Rev. Natasha Murray

Following Jesus is difficult. So many things have laid claim to our lives.

We don't know if we can let go and truly follow him.

Lord, search our hearts and speak to our spirits. Encourage us to freely follow you.

Help us to be dependable disciples, joyfully proclaiming your transforming power and love.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN STANZAS 1-4 † (attached to last page)

The Summon

PRAYER OF THE DAY †

Lord, we want to follow you wherever you lead. Reach out to us this day, stirring our souls and spirits with the winds of your power that we may faithfully be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

PASSING OF THE PEACE †

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

HYMN STANZA 5 † (attached to last page)

The Summons

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

Rev. Brittany Richardson Wattson

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

If Ye Love Me | Thomas Tallis

RECOGNITION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE ALTAR GUILD

Dear friends, today we recognize the ministry of the altar guild and commission them to a special task in the service of Jesus Christ.

In the name of this congregation, I commission you to this work and pledge to you our prayers, encouragement, and support.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you,
that in this and in all things
you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, look with favor upon these servants
who today affirm commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his
name.

Give him each of them courage, patience, and vision;
and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation
of witness to the world and of service to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION 398 VS 1-4 †

Jesus Calls Us | *United Methodist Hymnal*

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

GOSPEL READING †

Gay Lee

Luke 9: 51-62

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O'Christ

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 398 VS 5 †

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of
all.**

VOCAL SOLO

Kelley Ponder

The Wizard and I Stephen Schwartz

SERMON

Rev. David C. Freeman

Beyond The Yellow Brick Road Pt. 2

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

OFFERTORY

Shannon Webb, Karen Jarboe, Violin

Take My Life \ Craig Courtney

DOXOLOGY 95 †

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †

SENDING FORTH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP †

HYMN OF COMMITMENT 396 †

O Jesus, I Have Promised | 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 †

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE †

The Trees of the Field

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hill will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, -- and all the trees of the fields will
clap,
Will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the Field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands,
The trees of the field will clap their hands
While you go out with joy.***

POSTLUDE

James Stanley

Recessional Terry Osman

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH

Sunday, March 16, 2025

9:00 am	First Word (Cokesbury)
10:00 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	First Tradition (Sanctuary)
12:00 pm	First Arts Sundays
12:00 pm	Koinonia Lunch
4:30 pm	God and Country Documentary
5:30 pm	Canvas Community Worship

Monday, March 17, 2025

9:00 am	Flower Girls
1:00 pm	Community Café

6:00 pm Walking The Mourner's Path
6:30 pm Beginner Taiko
7:00 pm Mourner's Path Closing Worship

Tuesday, March 18, 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
5:00 pm Stewardship & Finance Committee
6:00 pm Board Of Stewards
6:30 pm Intermediate Taiko

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

9:30 am CDC Chapel
1:00 pm Community Café
5:00 pm Wednesday Nights on Center
5:45 pm Center St Ringers Rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Classes
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

The Summons

2130



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? _____ Will you go where you don't know and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er
 your name? _____ Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er
 my name. _____ Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er



be the same? _____ Will you let my love be shown, _____
 be the same? _____ Will you risk the hos - tile stare _____
 be the same? _____ Will you kiss the lep - er clean, _____
 be the same? _____ Will you use the faith you've found _____
 be the same. _____ In your com - pa - ny I'll go _____



— will you let my name be known, _____ will you let my
 — should your life at - tract or scare? _____ Will you let me
 — and do such as this un - seen, _____ and ad - mit to
 — to re - shape the world a - round, _____ through my sight and
 — where your love and foot - steps show. _____ Thus I'll move and



life be grown in you and you in me? _____
 an - swer prayer in you and you in me? _____
 what I mean in you and you in me? _____
 touch and sound in you and you in me? _____
 live and grow in you and you in me. _____