FIRST CHURCH IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS GROWING IN GRACE AND REACHING OUT WITH LOVE.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

With joy we welcome your presence today. Parents, we love the sound of children in church. Please join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship together.

Invitation

“Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.”
~ John C. Maxwell

Prelude:
Contemplation on “Wondrous Love” . . . . Rebecca Groom Te Velde
Dr. Jaebon Hwang, Associate Director / Organist

Welcome & Announcements . . . . . . . . . . . . Rev. Trudy Robinson

Passing the Peace: (signs of reconciliation and love)
May the peace of Christ be with you: and also with you.

Introit: If You Will Trust in God to Guide You . . . . . arr. Daniel Burton
If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through all your ways, God will give strength, whatever befall you, and bear you through the evil days. Who trusts in God’s unchanging love builds on the rock that will not move.

Hymn of Celebration #75: All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Invocation

God all our days, be present with us wherever we are. Send your Spirit to assure and unite us. Open our ears to the word your Son speaks to us. Guide us in our lives so that all that we say and do is pleasing in your sight. Guide us in our choices so that we might choose the way that leads to life. Amen.

Gloria Patri: (Hymnal #70)

A Time with Children

Pastoral Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Response: Jesus, Lover of My Soul. . . . . . . . arr. Daniel Burton

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly, while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.

TO HEAR THE WORD & RENEW COMMITMENT

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Anthem: What Wondrous Love is This ............... arr. Rose Lauck

Carolyne DalMonte, soprano

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul. When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, Who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme I will sing! And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be. And through eternity I’ll sing on. (Anonymous)

Gospel Lesson: John 11:32-45

The Gospel of the Lord: thanks be to God.

Hymn of Proclamation #452: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (vs. 1 and 3)

Sermon: “Shaped to Choose Life” ........ Rev. Trudy Robinson

Worship with Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Andante Tranquillo from “Five Short Pieces” . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Percy Whitlock

Doxology: (Hymnal #95)
Collect

This day, O God, we choose to respond to your gift of life by giving to your church. May you receive the gifts we give out of our gratitude, out of our resources, out of our hope, and out of Your vision of the future. Amen.

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

Hymn of Consecration #98: To God Be the Glory

Benediction .................................. Rev. Trudy Robinson

Benediction Response:
Sing, Pray and Keep God’s Ways ............... arr. Daniel Burton

Sing, pray and keep God’s ways unswerving; so do your own part faithfully, and trust God’s word; though undeserving, you’ll find God’s promise true to be. God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in God indeed.

Postlude: Fanfare on ‘Olivet’ .................. David Blackwell