



11:00 AM | February 22, 2026
The Wandering Way

You are invited to join the pastor, on the right side of the altar, for a time of prayer before we begin worship this morning.

PRELUDE

Esequiel Meza

WE GATHER

Meeting One Another on The Way
(pause for slide to be read silently)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us know that you worshipped with us today: www.westernhillsep.org/attendance/
See our full list of announcements here: www.westernhillsep.org/happening-now/

Preparing Together

Threshold Moment

[pause for slide to be read silently]

Hymn "A Wilderness Wandering People"

Jacqui: Today we begin a new worship series called "The Way." Making intentional journeys has been a ritual of humankind across time and traditions. Inspired by passages in the scriptures that talk about the journeys, roads and pathways of life, we will make our way together through this time. The popular and poignant movie, *The Way*, about a father's pilgrimage in honor of his late son on the famed Camino de Santiago in France and Spain, accompanies us as our modern-day inspiration to live the life we've been given to the fullest.

Jesus went on a pilgrimage into the wilderness after his baptism by John in the Jordan River. A common practice among spiritual leaders of his day, this was a time to dig deep into the humanity of his soul. Along the way he encounters what we all encounter along

the paths of life—temptations to stray from the path that God has intended for us. But “all who wander are not lost,” as the saying goes, for it is in the wandering often that we find our true selves.

[sing through twice]

We are a wilderness wandering people
on a journey of the soul.

May we find our destination
in our longing to be whole.

Our Holy God is calling to us.

With Jesus by our side
may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide,
on The Way,
on The Way,
on The Way.

Prayer for the Path- Jacqui

God of the Pilgrimage,
be with us on The Way.

At times, we don't know if we are on the path
you would have us travel.

How do we know the direction for our lives?

We come seeking your guidance,
as Jesus showed us to do.

Help us to be at home even in our wanderings,
knowing that you are ever with us.

Amen.

SONG

Trust In God

Praise Band

Brandon Lake and Chris Brown (7206001)

Holy Spirit

Praise Band

Bryan and Katie Torwalt (6087919)

Greeting Each Other

Kim: The best part of having companions on The Way is the sharing that we get to do that makes us feel just a little less alone. During this series, we will share answers to a common question with each other. I invite you to turn to someone you did not come to church with and answer this question: **“What is the scariest road you’ve ever been on?”** *[slide]* As we do this, I invite the children to come to the front for some time together.

Time with Young Disciples

[Response on slides]

Welcome friends!

Today we continue on our journey through Lent. Let's start with our Journey Litany. Watch and listen. Echo each line after me as well as the movement that goes with it.

I'm going on a journey *[walk in place]*
To find my truest self *[pat heart]*
To take the things that weigh me down *[sink low]*
And put them on the shelf. *[stand up tall and place burden "on shelf"]*

I'm going on a journey *[walk in place]*
To laugh, and learn, and pray *[pantomime laughing, point to head, praying hands]*
I'm going on a journey *[walk in place]*
And love will lead the way. *[hand to heart then point forward]*

WE PROCLAIM

Discovering Ourselves on The Way
(pause for slide to be read silently)

Hymn Be Still My Soul No. 534

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frlQHUeRT5c>

Scripture Luke 3: 21; Luke 4: 1-13 *NRSVue Benja Haberlein*

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

⁵ Then the devil^[a] led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil^[b] said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

⁹Then the devil^[c] led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹ and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Sermon Kim

WE RESPOND

Opening to the Holy on The Way
(pause for slide to be read silently)

Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way

Jacqui: Because this series is about our life journeys, we will take our time of prayer as a kind of "pitstop" along the way. We cannot always be moving forward. We have to rest. We have to take time to pause in the stillness and reassess and remember to breathe. And so during this series, we will begin with a confessional prayer and a time of personal reflection and then lift our concerns and joys. Our musicians will help us find that stillness with a repeated song throughout the season that can take us deeper into the guiding presence of God.

Dear God,

I am full of anxious questions.

I am short on reasonable answers.

**I am trapped by my own inability
to make a decision.**

I am reluctant to express my feelings.

I am afraid of the consequences.

**I want a guarantee that everything
will work to my benefit.**

**There are times when I hope that
someone will take over for me.**

There are times when I know

I must do it myself.

That is when I am fearful that

I am not strong enough.

I am not wise enough.
I am not caring enough.
If it is possible,
let that cup pass from me,
but if not...
Amen.

Hymn Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

Silence *Time for Contemplation*

(words on slide, about 2 minutes,)

Jacqui: Hear this: No matter what juncture you find yourself on in your journeys, you are never alone in your “wondering while wandering.”
Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it,
Jesus is with you now because Jesus has been on this road
and knows just how hard it can be.
You are forgiven and carried,
especially when you think you are at the end of the road.
May it be so.

Hymn Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

(choir will the song again without introduction)

The Lord’s Prayer

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

[pause for slide to be read silently)

Giving Talk and Offering

The season of Lent brings an opportunity for each of us to join Christians through the last 2000 years who understood the importance of giving gifts

to help build up the Realm of God on earth,

to help sustain the lives of sisters and brothers (near and far),

and to help provide for those living in poverty and need.

Your giving makes a difference to God, to sisters and brothers, and to the poor. During this Lenten season we’ll seek to provide for the regular needs of this congregation, but we’ll bring items for food pantry and socks for the homeless.

Binding us together as a community of faith, let us share our gifts, our tithes and our offerings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept our lives, O God, as well as these gifts,
to help build your Kingdom on earth.

Let the spirit in which we give them be your Spirit.

Let the use made of them be your use. AMEN

Anthem

"For the Beauty of The Earth"

Chancel Choir

Arr. by Mark Hayes

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.
over and around us lies.

Lord of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower
sun and moon and stars of light,

Lord of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

For yourself, best gift divine,
for our race so freely given,
graces human and divine
flowers of earth and buds of heaven
flowers of earth and buds of heaven

Lord of all, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Closing Hymn/Song "The Summons"

Benediction Jacqui

Our blessing, or “benediction,” for this season is a call and response form.

Your response is:

“We will follow on The Way.”

“We will follow on The Way.”

The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.

We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.

We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
good over evil; humility over pride;
and loving God over loving the things that do not last.

May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

by: Ralph Vaughan Williams/Keveren

Judi Wilkinson

LAY READER: Paul Crispell