



11:00 AM | March 01, 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

It is Well With my Soul
by: Bliss/Hayes

Judi Wilkinson

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]

CALLING TO WORSHIP

Kim: Today, we continue our worship series called “The Way” that invites us to a spiritual journey during this season. Today we come to the table to be sustained for the road ahead. In our society, we are taught that everything costs. But our ways are not God’s ways, as we will hear in scripture. We are all invited to the table of Jesus without price. This is the abundance of God’s grace. This is the higher way that we are invited to embody for the sake of the world. The “rich food” that we are invited to partake is the richness of life when all have enough—not simply to survive—but to thrive. Hospitality is the way—even though we do not agree on everything, we are still one family at one table.

SONG "A Wilderness Wandering People"

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- Kim

God of Grace,
we know you are with us on The Way.
But we need sustenance in order to make the journey.
As we come seeking peace and a place at the table,
we find that you have already prepared and were expecting us.
Help us to set tables of abundance
for all who travel this journey of life,
just as Jesus did.
Amen.

HYMN Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing No. 400

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 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart. 629

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

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 55:1-9 NRSVue

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters; and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price. Why do you spend
your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live. I will make with you
an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Leader: Prayer is a kind of “pitstop” along our journeys—a time when we pause in the stillness and reassess and remember to breathe. Let us take this moment to rest deeper into the guiding presence of The Giving One.

O God,
You so love the world
that you give and give and give:
the generous gift of Life itself,
freedom of choice,
sunrise in the morning,
sunset in the evening,
and all those surprises in between.
Then you give us all the time there is—eternity.

I confess that my schedule often crowds out
appreciation for these gifts and my numbness
allows me to take them for granted.
Everyday living requires
such a serious investment of my energy
that I easily neglect the grandeur
all around me.
Set me free to dance
to the rhythms of your Spirit.
Help me see that even times of sorrow and despair
often enable me to discover strength
I never knew I had.
Make me strong at the broken places.

Yet when the dark night of the soul approaches,
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,)

ASSURANCE

Hear this: No matter whether you pause in gratitude for the gifts of God or not, God never stops giving. We can begin a higher way at any time.

Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it,
Jesus is with you now because Jesus promised to
set the table along our journey of life over and over again.
You are forgiven and invited,
especially when you think you have no place.
May it be so.

HYMN Lord Listen to Your Children Praying

(choir will the song again without introduction)

OFFERING

PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

With deep gratitude, Holy Giver of Life, we offer our gifts to you.
We joyfully recognize this day as a "little Easter",
in anticipation of the day we'll sing out our "Alleluia" song,
grateful for the ways you bring "yes" out of the "no" of our world
and a life of abundance out of the death of our greed and selfishness.

AMEN

ANTHEM

For The Beauty Of The Earth

Chancel Choir

arr. by: Mark Hayes

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of all that was,

and is,
and is to come.

You formed us in your image,
creating all in goodness,
asking us to walk with You in love.
When we held back from Your invitation,
You sought us out, encouraging us on our way, time and again.

You led those who could not see by a road they did not know.
You have turned nighttime before them into light.
You have smoothed out the rough places and made them plain.
You have released the prisoners from the dungeon.
You have made all things new.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. [Jacqui](#)
Your Spirit anointed him to walk with the poor, the captive, and the oppressed
and to proclaim freedom and abundance in your name.
On dusty paths and lakeside shores he encountered friends, strangers, and enemies,
inviting them to journey with him and to eat with him.
He offered newness of life and renewed covenants of love by water and the Spirit.

On the night that he gave himself up for the path of justice,
he was at the table with his friends.
He invited them... and he invites us,
to pause in our quest for destinations and savor the company of each other
and the ways in which he still is present in our gathering together.

He took the bread, he broke it and blessed it and shared it.
“Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the cup, he poured into it, blessed it and shared it.
“Do this in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, **Kim**
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ's pilgrimage to the kin-dom,
walking together one with each other,
working together in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. **Amen!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

SONGS Jesus Messiah, and Open Up the Heavens – Praise Band

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

[pause for slide to be read silently]

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

Children’s Medley

by: Hayes

Judi Wilkinson

LAY READER: Sarah Spencer