

Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church  
February 22, 2026  
First Sunday of Lent



**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** *"I Surrender All"*

*In Silence and in prayer, let us prepare to worship the LORD our God*

**DIMINISHING LIGHTS OF LENT**

**† CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

**People: manna in the desert, water turned into wine, love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

Leader: The good news of the gospel is:

**People: release for the captive, hope for the hopeless, mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

Leader: So come on in.

**People: There's no time to waste! so good it catches us by surprise. This surprising good news is here for you.**

Leader: Let us worship this good-news God.

**† HYMN #395 (GTG) "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door. But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed. You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant. And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious? Can we be messy and still be yours? We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course. Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen. *(Time of silent personal confession)*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**LENTEN RESPONSE "Lord Have Mercy" (Hymn #551)**

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**ANTHEM** *"Here I Am, Lord"*

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION  
SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

John 2:1-11 (NRSV) (pg. 80 NT)  
Matthew 13:31-32 (NRSV) (pg. 13 NT)

**SERMON** “The Good News Is: so good it catches us by surprise”  
Rev. Claire Bass

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

† **HYMN OF RESPONSE #346 (GTG) “For the Healing of the Nations”**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

† **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

† **Doxology (Hymn # 223 – 4<sup>th</sup> verse ( GTG)**

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

† **Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Surprising God of Mercy, you meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, your grace is never far, your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that you are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with you, even in the hard places. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

**WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

† **HYMN #166 (GTG) “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

† RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION *(Beneath the Cross of Jesus) (#216 GTG)*

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

POSTLUDE *“Jesus Calls Us”*

† *Those who are able may stand*