



The Inward Light and the Salt of the Earth

Feb 08, 2026

<https://zoom.us/j/716026467>

Call in 669-900-9128

PASTOR	Rev Laurie Manning
LITURGIST	Jim Schubert
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Edward Nunoo
ACCOMPANIST	Rob Finucane
<u>ZOOM HOST</u>	Abby Givler
<u>HOSPITALITY</u>	Jim Schubert
<u>USHERS</u>	Sheila Helms
<u>GREETER</u>	Carolyn Noble
<u>CHILDCARE</u>	Catherine Kessler

Land Acknowledgement: We gather today on the unceded homelands of the Ohlone and the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone peoples. Let us strive to honor all indigenous peoples by joining their efforts to pursue justice and care for this land.

RINGING OF THE BELL: Rod Repke

PRELUDE:

"Adoration" — Florence Price
Rob Finucane, piano

WELCOME & PASSING THE PEACE

[Visitor form, Prayer requests, Comments](#)

If you are visiting this morning, we are so glad you are here! We hope you'll join us for friendship time after worship. Tell us about yourself or sign up for our mailing list by filling out a Virtual Connect Card.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: We come not because we are finished, but because we are becoming.

People: We come carrying ordinary lives and quiet hopes.

Leader: We come not because we shine, but because we are learning to see.

People: We come hoping our lives might matter.

All: We are already part of the light of the world.

OPENING HYMN:

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer (NCH #18)
(verses 1 and 3)

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

Let us notice our bodies and our breathing. Let us notice that we are here. Holy One, we do not come to become impressive; we come to become honest. Help us trust that the light we carry, however small it feels, is enough. Amen.

ANTHEM: "Your Light Shines Within Us" — arr.
Edward Nunoo

*Skyline Choir; Edward Nunoo, conductor;
Rob Finucane, piano*

MOMENT FOR HERITAGE:

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

Reader: Today we honor Howard Thurman, the "mystic of the Civil Rights Movement" and mentor to Dr. King.

The Reading: "There is in every person an inward sea, and in that sea there is an island and on that island there is an altar... This is your crucial link with the Eternal. There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have."

Connection: As we explore being the "salt and light," Thurman reminds us that our light comes from listening for the "genuine" within us.

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 5:13–16 (NIV)

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

SERMON: [The Inward Light and the Salt of the Earth](#)

SERMON RESPONSE:

"Christ, Be Our Light" (Skyline Songbook #5)
Skyline Choir; Edward Nunoo, conductor;
Rob Finucane, piano

PRAYERS AND GRATITUDES OF THE ALL:

[\(Tree of Life\)](#)

Leader:

For all who feel invisible or discouraged... (pause)

For all who are tired of trying to matter... (pause)

For all whose quiet faithfulness is unseen... (pause)

For this fragile world that needs every light (pause)

We give thanks for small mercies, for ordinary kindness, and for the light that keeps showing up.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY:

"Let Us Hope When Hope Seems Hopeless" —

Emma Lou Diemer & David Beebe

Edward Nunoo, bass & Rob Finucane, piano

Offertory prayer: In the spirit of the ancestors who walked before us, we offer our lives and resources as tools for justice.

skyline.churchtrac.com. Friends may make credit card contributions through Stripe at skylineucc.org/give (preferred) or at paypal.me/skylinechurch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: skylineucc.org/news

<https://skylineucc.org/events>

<https://skylineucc.org/subscribe>

<https://skylineucc.org/newsletter-submission>

CLOSING HYMN: "Savior God Above"

(NCH #602) (verses 1 and 3)

BENEDICTION:

Go gently. You do not have to be spectacular. Let your ordinary life be enough light for today. And

as Howard Thurman taught, trust the "sound of the genuine" within you. Go in peace

POSTLUDE: "Savior God Above" (Instrumental)

A THANK YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you for your faithful service that brings our Sunday gatherings to life. Your generosity creates the space where we truly meet one another.

All, please review the schedule below and consider where **your** gifts may enhance our church's services. Email office@skylineucc.org [Volunteer Schedule 2025-2026](#)

DATE	Liturgist	Zoom Host	GREETER*	USHER **	Hospitality (food & drink)	Guest preachers
2/8/2026	Jim Schubert	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helm	Jim Schubert	
2/15/2026	Rob Repke	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helm	Carolyn Noble	
2/22/2026	Michael Armijo	Abby Givler	Carolyn Noble	Sheila Helm		
3/1/2026	Jim Schubert	Abby Givler		Sheila Helm		

*Greeter: Welcome visitors; collect contact information; invite to fellowship after service; introduce to others

**Usher: Distribute Bulletins, Hymnals/Music Booklets per the day's Bulletin; collect offerings; help with communion.

Upcoming Events – Ways to Stay Connected:

Weekly Gatherings

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/716026467>

- Tuesdays @ 10: 30 AM – Bible Study
- Fridays @ 1:00 PM – Prayer and Care Group (Leader: **Pastor Laurie**)

In-Person:

- Sundays @ 8:45 AM – Choir Practice – All are welcome!

Regular Meetings:

- Twice monthly @ 1:00 PM – Staff Meeting (Next: Feb 6, 2026)
- Third Thursdays @ 6:00 PM – Council Meeting on Zoom

NEW EVENTS: “What makes you come alive?”

“Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” — Howard Thurman

Becoming Human: A Season of Practice This Lenten season, we move beyond "believing harder" and into the transformative work of living more honestly. Inspired by the wisdom of Howard Thurman, our series explores attention, resilience, and the "quiet center" within us.

HIGHLIGHTS:

New Sermon Series: Becoming Human (Feb 8 through Easter April 5) Influenced by the wisdom of **Howard Thurman**, this series explores what it means to live a grounded life in anxious times. We'll look at attention, limits, and resilience through the lens of Gospel stories, psychology, and neuroscience. These aren't sermons about "believing harder"—they are about learning how to live more honestly and gently in the world we're in.

Potluck and Movie Night: *Origin* (2023) - Friday, Feb 13th, 6 - 9 pm **Why This Matters for Skyline:**

Ava DuVernay's *Origin* follows journalist Isabel Wilkerson as she researches her book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents", traveling to Nazi Germany, India, and the American South to uncover hidden connections between different systems of oppression.

This film speaks directly to Skyline's justice commitments. As a progressive UCC congregation engaged in reparations work and community organizing, we know that liberation struggles are interconnected. *Origin* powerfully illustrates how American slavery, the Holocaust, and India's caste system share common structures designed to maintain hierarchy and dehumanize people.

The film models the contemplative approach we value—meditative rather than didactic, inviting us to sit with difficult truths while finding hope in human resilience. For a small congregation doing big justice work, *Origin* affirms that understanding the deeper structures of injustice is essential to creating lasting change.

Lenten Practice Group: *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Wednesdays, starting Feb 18) In a time of deep division, Howard Thurman's classic remains a vital roadmap for spiritual and social survival. We will explore how Thurman's vision of dignity, resistance, and love helps us navigate the modern world with our humanity intact.

Black History Film Festival: Sat, Feb 21 12:30 - 2:30 pm. A unique afternoon in West Oakland featuring local films, *The Spirit We Move With* (Gullah Geechee culture) and *A New Day Begun* (The Black National Anthem).

Burned Out? A Sunset Reset in the Redwoods: Sunday, February 22 | 5:00–6:30 PM *Skyline Sanctuary & Labyrinth*

If you're tired, overwhelmed, or running on fumes, you're not broken—you're living in a world that never stops. This low-pressure evening is designed to help your nervous system breathe, grounded in the **wisdom of Howard Thurman**, who taught that "there is a quiet place in the heart where the spirit of God resides."

The evening includes:

- **The Quiet Center:** A guided reflection on Thurman's invitation to find the "centering moment" amidst life's storms.
- **Sacred Movement:** A labyrinth walk and gentle yoga/Tai Chi among the redwoods.
- **The Sunset Close:** Music and silence as the day ends, followed by an optional community potluck.

- *No experience needed. Nothing to believe. Just a chance to step out of the noise and reconnect with your "inner light."*

Special Events – Mark Your Calendars:

Date	Event	Location
Fri, Feb 13 6pm - 9pm	Potluck & Movie Night Movie: 2023 release, <i>“Origin”</i>	Friendship Room
Sun, Feb 15	Inquirers Hike After Fellowship or 3:00pm	Meet at Church, hike at Trudeau Center off Skyline
Wed, Feb 18	Lenten Group Begins: <i>Jesus and the Disinherited</i> -Howard Thurman	Friendship room or Zoom, time TBD by vote
Sat, Feb 21	Black History Film Festival: Actual time of Festival is 11am - 5pm. Skyline’s group may be there from 12:30-2:30pm. For complete film schedule for all 9 films, go to: https://www.blackhistoryfilmfestival.com/about/oakland/	1801 Adeline St, Oakland Carpool or meet there
Sun, Feb 22	The Sunset Reset: Sanctuary in the Redwoods (5:00–6:30 PM)	Skyline Sanctuary & Labyrinth

PROGRAM AND EVENTS SURVEY:

Your voice matters to our ALIVENESS! Please drop in the back of the sanctuary,

or complete on line: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Name: _____ Email: _____

1. Lenten Practice Group | *Jesus and the Disinherited, Howard Thurman*

I'm interested! My preferred time(s) would be: ☐ Morning (10 AM) ☐ Mid-Day (2:30 PM)
☐ Evening (7 PM) Format: ☐ In-Person ☐ Zoom ☐ No preference.

2. Inquirers Hike | Sunday, Feb 15 *Meet at Skyline Church to head to the Trudeau Center.*

Time Preference: ☐ After Fellowship ☐ 3:00 PM Ride: ☐ I need a ride ☐ I can drive others
☐ I'll meet you there

3. Black History Film Festival | Saturday, Feb 21 (12:30–2:30 PM)

Located at 1801 Adeline St. ☐ I'm coming! ☐ I need a ride ☐ I can drive others ☐ I'll meet you there
☐ I'd like to join the "debrief" meal afterward.

4. Sunset Practice & Potluck | Sunday, Feb 22 (5:00–6:30 PM)

Gathering at the Sanctuary & Labyrinth. Elements I'd like included: ☐ Labyrinth Walk ☐ Gentle Movement ☐ Reflection ☐ I'm staying for the potluck and will bring a dish!

5. Feedback & Belonging: What makes YOU come ALIVE??

- **What other programs/topics would you like to see offered at Skyline?**
- **What would it mean for you to truly belong to a community like this?**