



First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 2025



Today's flowers are in honor of Lexi Johnson-McMahon's 15th birthday and Ben Johnson-McMahon's 17th birthday from the Johnson-McMahon Family.

Gathering

Gathering Music (Prelude)
The Christ Light Enters
Words of Welcome and Threshold Moment

Call to Worship

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.
Who is my neighbor?
How can I help?
What do I have to learn?
Where is God in it all?
Here in this place, we can ask big questions.
So may we listen. May we learn.
May we stay curious, and may we look for God.
This is our invitation to lean in.
Let us worship our holy God.

Opening Song | In the midst of New Dimensions, 2238 FWS

Prayers of the People + The Prayer Jesus Taught

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Word in Music (Anthem)

[We Listen for God's Voice](#)

A Child Will Lead Them (Children's time with the pastor)

Call to confession

Prayer of confession

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, when we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,
God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,
God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.
This is the good news of the gospel.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson | Luke 10: 25-37 (NT P. 67)

Song of Response: I Saw a Stranger

Lyrics: Rev. Anna Strickland Tune: Kingsfold

Message: Stranger & Neighbor

We Respond to God's Lead

Affirmation of Faith

Church, if God asked you, "Who is your neighbor?"
what would you say?

We would say,
every child, every person,
every weeping willow, and every morning lark.
Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands,
every tail-wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple.

We would say, we are connected—
to one another, to all of God's creation.

There are no strangers in God's house. We are all family here.

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

Giving our Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service & Witness



Invitations and Announcements
Collection of Offering (*scan QR code for online giving*)
Doxology | Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, 95 UMH
Prayer of Dedication

We Go to Love and Serve

Closing Hymn | When the Poor Ones, 434 UMH
Benediction
The Christ Light Leads us into the World
Postlude



A note to our guests: Thank you for being here!
Your presence created a once in a lifetime experience. To learn more about our church, visit amumc.org. To receive our weekly emails, prayer list, or monthly newsletter, scan the QR code to sign up.

Join us next week, the 2nd Sunday in Lent: Faith & Works (Luke 13: 6-9)

Worship Notes:

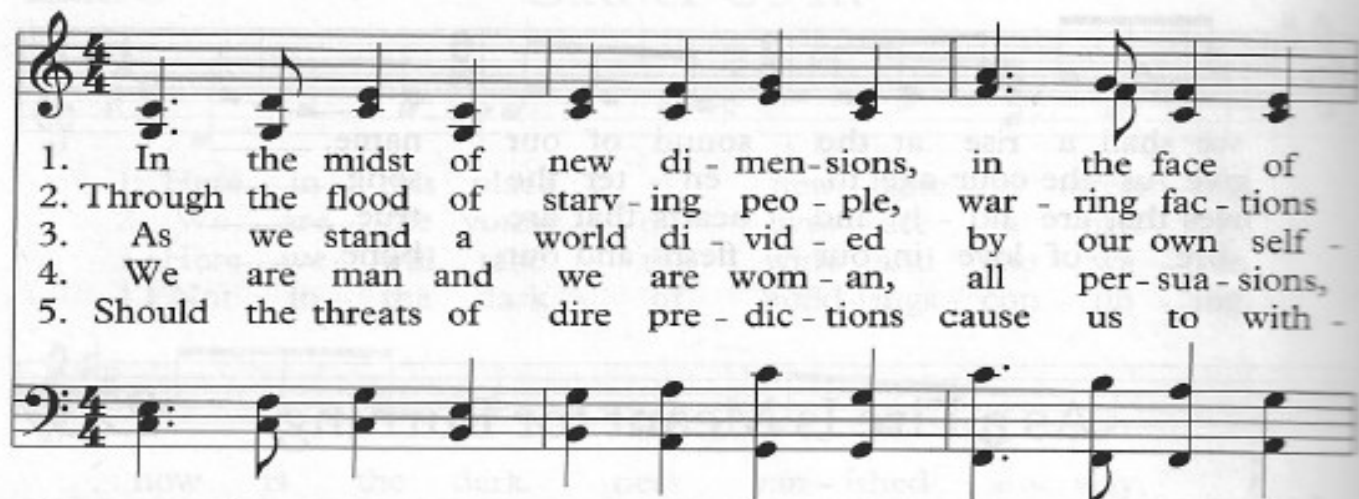
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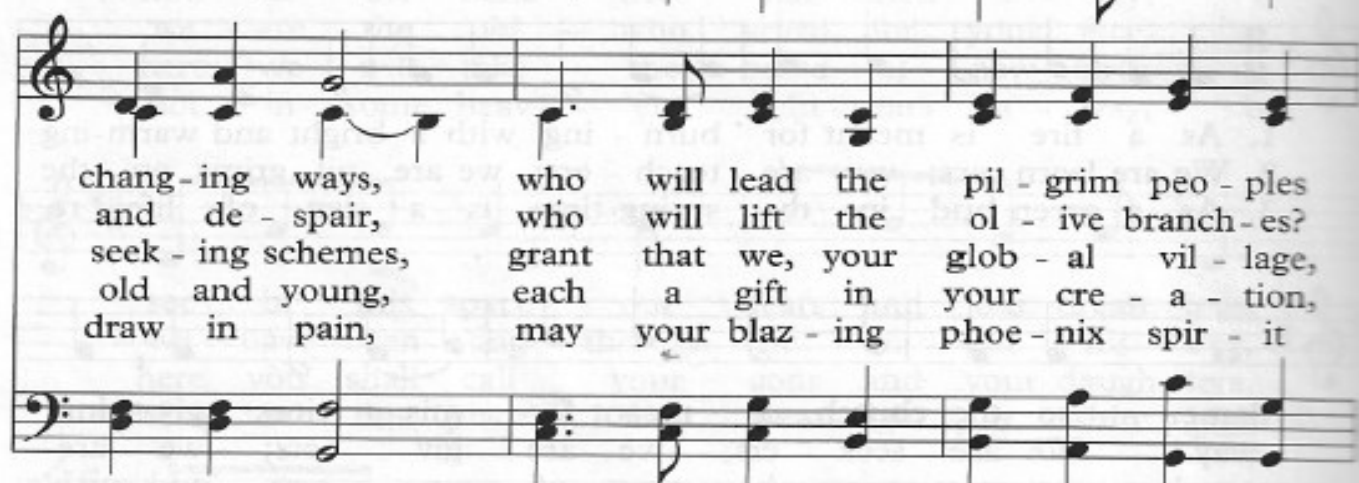
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In the Midst of New Dimensions



1. In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2. Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions
 3. As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 4. We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
 5. Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -

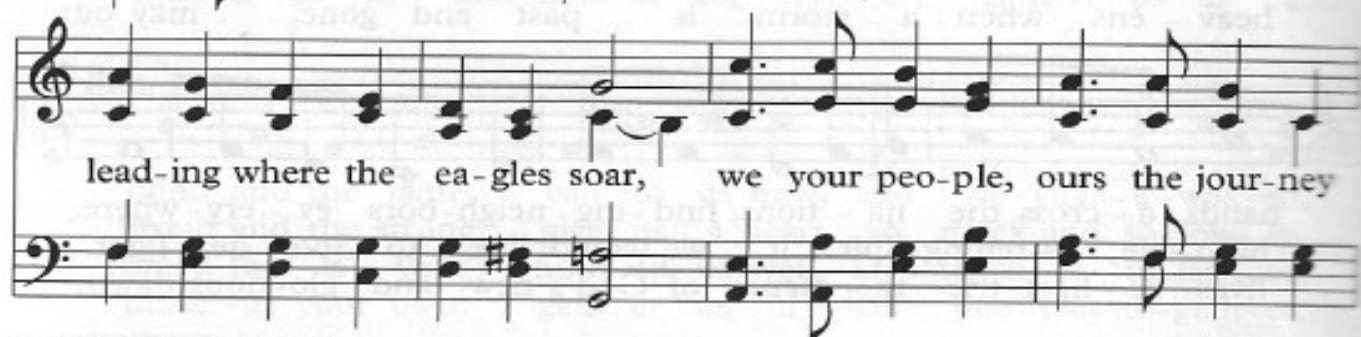


chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it

Refrain



wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fier - y pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney

now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal line. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, which is a simple, repetitive phrase. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment, consisting of chords and single notes. The music is in a simple, homophonic style, typical of a hymn or a simple song.

I Saw a Stranger

KINGSFOLD 8.6.8.6 D ("O Sing a Song of Bethlehem")

NEIGHBOR:

I saw a stranger on the road in need of help and care

No clues to their identity, just human flesh laid bare

A thought had fluttered through my mind: "Is this one of my own?"

My tribal mind made me forget that they're bone of my bone

STRANGER:

I laid there desperate by the road in need of help and care

As one by one they passed me by, too busy or too scared

Then one approached and my first thought was "Do they mean me harm?"

To my surprise they met my eyes and held me in their arms

BOTH:

In our embrace the memory returned from Eden's dust

Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, my kin whom I can trust

The artificial walls we build around the tribes we claim

Make us forget the gospel truth: "Beloved" is your name

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Cuando El Pobre

(When the Poor Ones)

Unísono (Unison)

Dm A7 Bb

1. Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aun re-par-te,
 2. Cuan-do su-fre un hom-bre y lo-gra su con-sue-lo,
 1. When the poor ones who have noth-ing share with stran-gers,
 2. When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,

D7 Gm C7 F

cuan-do el hom-bre pa-sa sed y a-gua nos da,
 cuan-do es-pe-ra y no se can-sa de es-pe-rar,
 when the thirst-y wa-ter give un-to us all,
 when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,

F E7 A7 Dm

cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce,
 cuan-do a-ma-mos, aun-que el o-dio nos ro-de-e,
 when the crippled in their weak-ness strength-en oth-ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,

Estribillo (Refrain)

B \flat A7 Dm

va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,

D7 Gm A7 Dm Gm Dm

va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis - mo ca - mi - nar.
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,
cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,
cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos,
Estribillo

4. Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,
cuando un hombre donde hay guerra pone paz,
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño,
Estribillo

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
Refrain

4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
Refrain