

HYMN

TFWS #2233 “Where Children Belong”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE — Sharon Goldade**SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-17** — Sharon Cely

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born anew.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

MESSAGE

“Rebirth”

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN

UMH #369 “Blessed Assurance”

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

REFRAIN: This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, praising my savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, vision of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **REFRAIN**

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my savior am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **REFRAIN**

OFFERTORY — Ashley Cheek and Betsy Foushee “Every Season” by Nicole Nordeman

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Sharon Cely

ALL: God of New Beginnings, you call us to trust in what we cannot yet see, to follow where you lead, even when the road is unclear. In the shadows of our questions and the uncertainty of our understanding, you meet us with grace, not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now these gifts we offer—not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from "Offertory Prayer" by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025. Used by permission.

COMMUNION THANKSGIVING — Lin

One: The Lord be with you,

All: and also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts,

All: we lift them up to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

All: it is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray: ... and be filled with the joy that is you.

All: You are our Holy God, worthy of glory and praise!

One: We give thanks to you ... your presence and your covenant of love through Jesus Christ.

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One: As Jesus walked among us on this earth ... living gift to you and to your world.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God ... who taught us to love, taught us to forgive, and taught us to pray, saying:

All: 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.

INVITATION — Lin**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome to share in Communion, and all means all. Please come forward when invited by the usher and eat the bread, then drink the cup. For the convenience of all, we use non-alcoholic grape juice and also provide gluten free wafers. When you return to your seat, please take time to pray for those on the prayer list in the bulletin. If you would prefer to receive communion in the pew, please let the usher know and the elements will be brought to you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION — Sharon Cely

All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to the world. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN UMH #389 “Freely, Freely”

1. God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name, I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you to share his love as he told me to.

REFRAIN: He said, “Freely, freely you have received; freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe others will know that I live.”

2. All power is given in Jesus’ name, in earth and heaven in Jesus’ name;
And in Jesus’ name I come to you to share his power as he told me to. REFRAIN

BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Brendan Krueger
Offertory— Ashley Cheek & Betsy Foushee
Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist — Sharon Cely
Special Music: N/A

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger
Song Leader — Scott Anderson
Violin — Rae Ann Norell
Children’s Message— Sharon Goldade