

John Knox Presbyterian Church
March 8, 2026 Third Sunday in Lent
The good news is...
together, the impossible is possible



5th century mosaic in Tabgha, Israel, Church of the Loaves and Fishes
Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts
and minds for worship.

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Poem

"Surely, This Must Be It!"

Rev. Sarah Speed

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

If you need good news,
settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,
there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck!

We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

*** Hymn**

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

tune #460

See projection for updated/additional words than in hymnal.

*** Call to Confession**

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

Holy God,
with you the impossible is possible.
5,000 can be fed.
The blind can see.
The hopeless can find hope.

** = Standing as able Italics = Leader **Bold** = People*

With you the impossible is possible,
but we are quick to forget that.
We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves
that nothing can be done.
We forget that you empowered the disciples
to feed the crowd.
We forget that you are always with us.
Forgive our small-minded ways.
Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.
But even more so, forgive us when we refuse
to be a part of it.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

*** Responsive Words of Forgiveness**

*Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet.
Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.*

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, good news. Amen!

***Sung Response**

“Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life”

#421 verses 4 and 5

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Ephesians 3: 20-21

Common English Bible

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond
all that we could ask or imagine
by his power at work within us;
glory to him in the church
and in Christ Jesus for all generations,
forever and always. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with our Young and Growing

Second Reading

Mark 6: 32-44

Common English Bible

They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities
and arrived before them. When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on
them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many
things.

Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, “This is an isolated place, and it’s already
late in the day. Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and
villages and buy something to eat for themselves.”

He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

But they said to him, “Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months’ pay and
give it to them to eat?”

He said to them, "How much bread do you have? Take a look."

After checking, they said, "Five loaves of bread and two fish."

He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate until they were full. They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. About five thousand had eaten.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** 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.

*** Hymn**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

#761

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Church and Community Life

Minute for Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory and Sung Response

"Doxology for Humanity"

see projection

*Please remain seated for the first 3 verses and then stand for the fourth verse
as our offerings are presented for dedication.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Response: *Lord, in your mercy hear our prayers.*

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* Sending Song

“Be Rooted in Hope”

Paul Vasile

see music handout or projection

* Charge and Blessing

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude

Liturgist: Mary Jo Emmett

Pianist: Adam Robinson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Music Director: Anna Robinson

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher. Liturgy and poetry by Rev. Sarah Speed, © A Sanctified Art. sanctifiedart.org/ All rights reserved.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

Church and Community Life

THIS LENT, we return to the roots of Jesus' life and teaching—good news that is radical, joyful, and grounding—calling us to love our neighbors, seek justice, care for the vulnerable, and trust God's expansive grace. Even when it challenges or unsettles us, the good news is alive among us, inviting us not just to believe it, but to embody it in a world hungry for hope.

PRAYERS for Shirley's continued recovery are appreciated, and she also appreciates cards and visitors. She will be in Room 202, Salem Transitional Care of Cascadia, located at 3445 Boone Rd SE, Salem, OR 97317, for a couple of weeks to regain her strength. Their phone number is 503-576-3000. This facility is a separate building from Bonaventure South, but located in the same complex.

FELLOWSHIP TIME after worship is a wonderful time to talk with friends and make new ones. It's even more pleasant with goodies in hand. Please see Joan to provide goodies, just bring some, or leave a free-will offering in the basket on the table so we can purchase refreshments when home-baked treats aren't available. Thanks!

Looking Ahead

- March 15 10:30** Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Worship: *The good news is ... protection
 & care for the vulnerable*
 Christ Jar Offering
 Birthday/Anniversary celebration
- March 16 7:00** Admin Committee Meeting-Zoom
- March 18 7:00** Session Meeting – Zoom
- March 22 10:30** Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Worship: *The good news is... rooted in
 justice, mercy, and faithfulness*
- March 28 10:30** Sixth Sunday in Lent – Palm Sunday
 Worship: *The good news is...
 inspiring us to act*
- April 2 6:00** Maundy Thursday meal
 and worship with Communion
- April 5 10:30** **RESURRECTION OF THE LORD-Easter**
 Flowered cross
 Enhanced fellowship time

March Celebrations

Birthdays			
2	Sally H	9	Bronwyn C.
8	Adam R.	31	CJ H.
Anniversary			
6	CJ and Carrie H.		

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)
 PO Box 20968 (452 Cummings Lane N)
 Keizer, OR 97307 (503) 393-0404
 Office Hours: By appointment – call or email
 Office email: office.johnknoxpreskeizer@gmail.com
 Prayer chain: johnknoxpreskeizer@gmail.com
 Web: johnknoxpreskeizer.org
 Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis
 Pastor's email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com
 Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836