



the good news is..

so good, it catches
us by surprise

Welcome to Greystone

At Greystone everyone is welcomed and affirmed as God's beloved creation.

Wherever you are in life and faith:

You are valued.

You are loved.

You belong.

The flowers today are from Carol Allen and Barbara Rutledge

In memory of their mother, Dorothy Rutledge.

Cover Art: "We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep"

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32

11"x14" Acrylic, mustard seed on paper

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds," a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos, has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: "You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep."

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith.

—Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

The Worship of God

February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

Gathering Music

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”
GBC Worship Band

Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

“Sing Wherever I Go”

Words and Music by Andrew Bergthold,
Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Kyle Briskin,
Martin Cash, and Scott Cash

“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

Words and Music by Martin Smith

“You Are Good”

Words and Music by Israel Houghton

Prelude

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit” and
“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”
GBC Handbell Choir

Traditional Black Spirituals
arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Welcome

Steve Rose

† Call to Worship

One: The good news of the gospel is:

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

One: The good news of the gospel is:

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

One: So come on in. There's no time to waste! This surprising good news is here for you.

All: Let us worship this good-news God.

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

† Opening Hymn

“Let Us Build a House”
Stanzas 1, 4-5

TWO OAKES
Words and Music by Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Children's Sermon

April Alston

Centering Song

“I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table”
(Excerpt)

Traditional Black Spiritual

I'm gonna sit at the welcome table, O Lord;
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, Hallelujah.
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table; I'm gonna
Sit at the welcome table one of these days.

Call to Confession

Anna Beth Cross

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.

Words of Forgiveness

One: God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

All: of course, of course, of course.

One: This is the good news of the gospel.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Offertory Anthem

"I Worship You, Almighty God"
GBC Choir

by Sondra Corbett Wood
arr. Mary McDonald

†Doxology

"O Bless the Gifts"

LAMB OF GOD
Words by Samuel Longfellow, alt.
Music by Twila Paris

**O bless the gifts our hands have brought;
and bless the work our hearts have planned.**

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought;

The rest, O God, is in Your hand.

(Repeat)

†Prayer of Dedication

David Cross

Scripture

Matthew 13:31-32, Psalm 121

Sylvia Cash

One: The Word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

*the good news is...
so good it catches us by surprise*

Bo Prosser

†Hymn of Response “Seeds of God's Garden, Tenderly Planted”

BUNESSAN
Words by Amanda Udis-Kessler
Traditional Gaelic Melody

**Seeds of God's garden, tenderly planted,
Hope of creation, buried with care,
Through our beholding slowly unfolding,
Tended in patience, nurtured in prayer.**

**Seeds of God's garden, tiny and fragile,
Hope of creation, cool in the earth,
Easing our sadness, bringers of gladness,
Bearers of goodness showing our worth.**

**Seeds of God's garden, one day to blossom,
Hope of creation, bearing good fruit,
Gently repairing all our despairing,
Faith reaching outward, love at the root.**

Celebrating Community

Christian McIvor

Benediction

Bo Prosser

†Sending Song

**“Tell Me Something Good”
(Chorus)**

Words and Music by
Christian McIvor ©2026

**Tell me, tell me something good.
Together, ground us in the ways we should
Live out a love and faith so radical
That we could bring great hope and joy for all.**

Postlude

**“Amazing Grace”
Cynthia Griesedieck**

arr. John Carter

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*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

Greystone Staff

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