



the good news is...

rooted in justice, mercy,
& faithfulness

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.

Cover Art: "There Is Good"

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Matthew 23:23

18"x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay

In this series of scriptures, gathered crowds drew my attention. Jesus always drew a crowd, but so did the voices of hate in his time. In our current historic moment, this dichotomy of crowds for justice and crowds for injustice confounds me. Are all crowds worthy of joining? In the background of this piece, I dyed and collaged together torn newspaper, representing the fabric of the world, to portray the cacophony of crowds gathering. What is drawing them in? Is everything that compels us to gather right and good? No.

The clarity comes in this scripture: "For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith" (Matthew 23:23). Most especially, in the context of Jesus denouncing the scribes and Pharisees, the crucial point is that gathering to enact justice *is* good and gathering to enact injustice *is not*.

The crowd depicted in this artwork is inspired by the 100,000 who gathered strong in Budapest, Hungary, in June, 2025. The Hungarian parliament had outlawed Pride as part of a larger systemic effort to take away the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in Hungary, and a "wider effort to curb democratic freedoms ahead of a hotly contested national election next year."

In the four corners of the artwork, symbols of justice, mercy, and faithfulness echo the clarity of Jesus. Gathering for justice is the work of the gospel.

—Hannah Garrity

The Worship of God

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Gathering Music

“Graves into Gardens”
GBC Worship Band

Words and Music by Brandon Lake,
Chris Brown, Steven Furtick,
and Tiffany Hammer

“If I Had a Hammer”

Words and Music by
Pete Seeger and Lee Hays

“Earth: Beloved Community”

Words and Music
by Christian McIvor ©2018

“God of Justice”

Words and Music by Tim Hughes

Prelude

“Morning Has Broken”
The GraceTones

arr. John Rutter

Welcome

Anna Beth Cross

† Call to Worship

One: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

One: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

All: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

One: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

All: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

One: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

All: This is God’s house.

One: You can make yourself at home here.

All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

†**Opening Hymn** “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

HYFRYDOL
Words by Frederick W. Faber (alt.)
Music by Rowland H. Prichard

**There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.**

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

Children’s Sermon

Lou Dawson and Deanna Choplin

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

Christian McIvor

Prayer of Confession

**All: Holy God,
we love to live our lives by the rules.
We love clear answers.
We love right and wrong.
We love swift justice.
We love to pick up stones,
but you show us another way.
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.
You prioritize mercy over legality.
You prioritize people over tradition.
You prioritize love over everything.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.
Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

One: Church family,
Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.
Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**All: Our God is a God of mercy.
Our God is a God of compassion.
Our God is a God of grace.
We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.
Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.
Amen.**

Offertory Anthem

“Faithfulness”
GBC Choir

Words by Thomas O. Chisholm
Music by Joel Raney

†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

Sylvia Cash

Scripture

Matthew 23:23-24, Psalm 130

Heather Choplin

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

the good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness

Bo Prosser

†Hymn of Response #343

"Amazing Grace"

NEW BRITAIN
Words by John Newton
Traditional American Folk Melody

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Celebrating Community

Anna Beth Cross

Benediction

Bo Prosser

†Sending Song

"Tell Me Something Good"
(Chorus)

Words and Music by
Christian Mclvor ©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

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
Christian Mclvor and Pam Weis

arr. Robert Lau

The flowers today are given in thankfulness for the good work of Greystone's mission partners.

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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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